

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 53

Title: Contraceptive Devices - Minors

Hearing: March 13, 202

Position: Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *House Bill 53 – Public Health – Contraceptive Devices – Minors*. The bill would prohibit minors from consenting to two types of contraceptives, intrauterine devices and implants.

Maryland law recognizes a minor’s capacity to consent to birth control under Health General 20-102. Minors have the ability to work with their licensed health care provider to select the family planning option that will be the best option for them. Intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants are among the 18 method of birth control approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because they are safe and effective. IUDs and implants are among the most effective methods, known as long-acting reversible contraception (LARC).

Minors should be able to work with their health care provider to select the method that is best for them. With birth control pills, the individual must remember to take it every day. While with LARC methods, birth control lasts for 3 to 5 years on average.

This bill would block access to LARC methods for some minors. While many minors involve their parents in decisions about birth control, it is not possible for all minors. These minors would not be able to select LARC methods. Planned Parenthood of Maryland believes that individuals should be able to select the birth control method that is best for them; therefore, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB 53.