



March 12, 2020

Maryland General Assembly
441st Session of the General Assembly
Concerning House Bill 58

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing in support of **Maryland House Bill 53**, regarding **Public Health—Contraceptive Devices—Minors**.

Family Policy Alliance is a national pro-family organization that partners with a network of state-based family policy groups. Together, we advocate for policies that promote a nation where families thrive. We represent hundreds of thousands of Americans who believe public policy should protect and promote a parent's fundamental right to the upbringing of their children. The Supreme Court has declared "the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court" (*Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)).

Most parents have moral, ethical, and religious values that may have a significant impact on how they choose to guide their child in the types of medical care that the family may access. Reproductive health care can be a controversial topic precisely because of the significance of these familial beliefs. Parents have the right to be thoroughly engaged in the medical decision-making process of their child and their health-care providers. One way to ensure parental involvement is to require parental consent for a child's medical care.

Parents know their child best. A parent is in the best position to help their child weigh the important potential benefits and consequences of various forms of contraceptives, particularly those that are implanted or inserted. These types of contraceptives can be invasive and have serious adverse side effects, where a parent's knowledge can be imperative to provide their child the necessary emotional and medical support. Parental consent ensures a parent is fully aware of their child's health status.

Maryland House Bill 53 will ensure that parents are sufficiently informed regarding their child's medical needs and in the best position to provide vital guidance and support on their child's behalf.

We respectfully urge you to support Maryland House Bill 53.

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