



Dear members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am Dr. Stacy Sun and I am an obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Baltimore, Maryland. I am currently in sub-specialty fellowship training in complex contraceptive and abortion care. I have come to you today to speak on behalf of the Maryland section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists against House Bill 53, Public Health - Contraceptive Devices- Minors.

Long-acting reversible contraceptive methods are amongst the most effective forms of birth control. These include the intrauterine device and implant, both of which are 20 times more effective than pills or the shot. Not only are they effective for many years, they are safe, easily reversible, and do not affect a woman's ability to get pregnant in the future.

As a mother, I understand the need to protect our children and ensure their safety. As a doctor who takes care of adolescents and provides birth control counseling, I also understand that sometimes these conversations related to reproductive and sexual health are difficult for teens to have with parents. Teens who are sexually active, pregnant, or who suffer from emotional and psychological problems may avoid seeking care if they must involve their parents. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists states that, "when feasible, obstetrician-gynecologists should work with government agencies and legislative bodies to eliminate or mitigate the effects of laws that unduly restrict confidential health services for minor adolescents."

I recently cared for a 15-year-old young woman, who I will call Jessica, who came to my office by herself for birth control. For her, the most important aspect was something she wouldn't have to remember to take on a daily basis. After carefully considering her options, she chose the birth control arm implant. We placed it the same day and Jessica left to return to her daily life, knowing that she was well protected against a pregnancy that could derail her dreams for her future.

Allow me to tell you a bit more about Jessica. She is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who recently lost her mother to the opioid epidemic. She lives with her Aunt, two siblings and cousin, all under the age of 10. Jessica had one prior abortion and was anxious to have an effective contraceptive method. She already had to reschedule her clinic appointment twice because it was difficult for her to obtain secure transportation.

Under this bill, Jessica would have been unable to obtain the birth control she wanted that day. This bill would have forced her to choose a less effective method, leave with none at all, or return for another appointment probably a month later, all possibilities putting her at risk for another unwanted pregnancy.

The positive impact of long-acting reversible contraceptive methods on young women's lives is well established in the medical literature. In studies where teens had unobstructed access to these most effective methods, the teen pregnancy rate, birth and abortion rates all decreased by more than 75%. This allows these young women to focus on their education and to pursue their dreams.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against House Bill 53. Let us continue to provide a safe space for young women like Jessica to make these important health decisions with their trusted healthcare providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Sun, MD MPH