

HB164Letterhead (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Healey

Position: FAV

ANNE HEALEY
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Chair
Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Chair
Local Government and
Bi-County Issues Subcommittee



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Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Hearing – Mar. 29

HB164 – Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policy

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, for the record, Del. Anne Healey. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB164, a bill that codifies in Maryland law the benefits of the federal Title IX protections for women in higher education. The bill is modeled on a similar law which was passed in California in 2019.

As president of the Women's Caucus this year, I am particularly enthusiastic about this bill. It is a crucial next step in ensuring that parenting and pregnant students do not lose their educational opportunities because of discriminatory institutional practices.

What does the bill do?

First of all, it requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy related to pregnant and parenting students that is consistent with federal Title IX laws. It prevents public higher education institutions from forcing pregnant or parenting students to withdraw or limit studies, and requires the institution to allow pregnant or parenting students to take a leave of absence and return in good academic standing. For pregnant students, leave would be no less than 12 months, unless student requests shorter leave period. Leave would include time to

prepare and return to class/exams. Leave could be extended if medically necessary. For the non-birth parent, leave would be no less than 1 month unless student requests shorter time or a medical extension is needed.

It also requires higher education institutions to publicize the rights of pregnant and parenting students and to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant students. Reasonable accommodations include allowing student to make up tests and assignments if missed for pregnancy-related reasons, allowing medically excused absences. Also required are other accommodations, such as private space for lactation that is not a bathroom or closet.

In the 2021 session, [hb401](#)/sb438 passed into law. As you may recall, that legislation supported student parents in high school. The same guarantees and protections are for higher education.

While title ix does a lot of good already, codifying it at the state level will assure that these rights do not disappear if federal law changes.

I ask for a favorable report on hb164.

Following is some helpful background collected by supporters of this bill:

- In Maryland, most colleges do not list the Title IX rights of pregnant and parenting students on their website. But there are 55,000 student parents in Maryland (nearly 20 percent of all undergrads in MD) who would benefit from knowing their rights. They are more likely to drop out of college without these supports, and they might drop out just because they don't know their rights.

- Just 8% of single mother undergraduates will earn an AA or BA within six years of college enrollment (compared with 49% of non-mothers). And there are 26,000 single mother students currently in MD
- 80% of Maryland public universities do not offer childcare on campus, and more than half provide no lactation spaces for breastfeeding mothers.
- Federal law already requires a lactation room be available for employees, so just extending that same space or a similar accommodation to lactating students would help.

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV__HB164.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 29, 2022

HB 164

Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant Students - Policy

Senate EHEA Committee

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

The Church often reminds us that we are to care for all of God’s people, especially the weakest and defenseless among us. Pregnancy support services provide care and protection for some of our society’s most vulnerable members by assisting women throughout their pregnancies and as they welcome their children into the world. HB 164 will go a long way to ensure pregnant and parenting students in higher education have a higher chance at success.

Nearly 55,000 students or [one-fifth of undergraduates](#) in Maryland are parents. Student parents tend to be older (the median age is 32), financially independent, highly motivated and earn better grades than their dependent peers. However, just 8% of single mother undergraduates will earn an AA or BA within 6 years of college enrollment (compared with 49% of non-mothers).

One of the most basic barriers to student parents’ education, especially for single mothers, is knowledge of their Title IX rights for accommodation on campus. Out of 31 public colleges and universities in Maryland, only a quarter describe the Title IX rights of pregnant and parenting students on their college website. Additionally, 60% of public colleges do not list lactation spaces for breastfeeding mothers.

Without this knowledge, student mothers may drop out of college, face discrimination, or believe their school is unsupportive, creating an off-ramp to college success rather than a bridge forward.

Women of color are more likely to be student parents; 31% of Black women, 17% of mixed-race women and 16% of Latinas in college are mothers compared to 13% of White and 7% of Asian/Pacific Islander female students. - [IWPR Study](#)

Single mothers in Maryland who graduate with an A.A.:

- Are half as likely to live in poverty as a high school graduate

Single mothers in Maryland who graduate with a B.A.:

- Are 72% less likely to live in poverty than a high school graduate (9% vs 32%)
- Earn over \$650,000 more over their lifetime
- Save Maryland over \$40,000 in public assistance spending over their lifetime.
- Contribute nearly \$245,000 more in lifetime taxes¹

The University of Maryland System, Maryland Community Colleges, and Maryland's other public universities and colleges should imitate Frederick Community College and [Montgomery College](#) in supporting pregnant and parenting students to college success.

The Maryland Catholic Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 164.

¹ [Maryland.pdf \(iwpr.org\)](#)

Cross Over - HB 164 - Institutions of Higher Educa

Uploaded by: Michelle Siri

Position: FAV

BILL NO.: House Bill 164 – Cross File Hearing
TITLE: Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant Students - Policy
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
DATE: March 29, 2022
POSITION: FAVORABLE

House Bill 164, as amended, would ensure that colleges and universities to adopt policies related to pregnant and parenting students consistent with Title IX of the Federal Higher Education Act (“Title IX”). Title IX prohibits sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. This includes deny benefits or services, discrimination, or otherwise providing unequal educational resources to students based on their sex or gender.

Many young parents are eager to focus on their education. Returning or non-traditional students are also often juggling parenthood and their studies. Unfortunately, though, there are often barriers in place that can thwart students’ abilities to earn their degree. Many schools fail to properly accommodate pregnant or parenting students, and do little to support them in their continued educational pursuits. As a result, becoming pregnant or a parent are major causes of dropping out or failing to complete a degree.

The Women’s Law Center supports all women, regardless of age, socio-economic status, or parenting status and believes in their capacity for growth and success. Education is a key component for ensuring everyone lives up to their potential, and is necessary for full economic independence. HB 164 would further aid pregnant and parenting students by providing the support and opportunities necessary to continue their studies.

For these reasons, the WLC supports HB 164 and urges a favorable report.

The Women’s Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, membership organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change.

HB0164 - Senate_FAV_MedChi_Institution of Higher E

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Anne Healey

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 29, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 164 – *Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant Students – Policy*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 164.

House Bill 164 seeks to address the issues that students who are pregnant, have recently given birth, or are non-birth parents face in attempting to advance their education, while addressing the demands associated with pregnancy and early parenthood demands. Academic success is a key factor in enabling students to become productive, self-sufficient individuals who can advance professionally and personally. The added challenges of pregnancy and the initial months after delivery can negatively impact a student, despite a desire and commitment to complete their education and advance their professional development. Passage of House Bill 164 will help ensure that institutions of higher education have policies that support the success and advancement of their students who experience a pregnancy or birth of a child. It will enhance the likelihood of success for these students as well as their ability to support their families. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:
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HB164_USM_INFO_EHE.pdf

Uploaded by: Andy Clark

Position: INFO



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
House Bill 164
Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant Students - Policy
March 29, 2022
Information

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 164. The University System of Maryland's (USM) equal treatment and support for pregnant and parenting students is critical to ensuring that all female students have equal access to educational opportunities. The campuses that comprise the USM have consistently implemented timely policies to keep these students in school, ensure their children's health — and in the end get their diploma.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. One of the less well-known aspects of Title IX is that it protects the rights of pregnant and parenting students to stay in school and confer a status of "...pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom."

Generally speaking, this means that USM institutions must give all students who might be, are, or have been pregnant (whether currently parenting or not) equal access to school programs and extracurricular activities. Schools must treat pregnant and parenting students in the same way that they treat other students who are similarly able or unable to participate in school activities. And Title IX requires schools to prevent and address sex-based harassment, which includes harassment based on pregnancy. Pregnant and/or parenting students may not be prevented from attending class on the basis of pregnancy. Separate programs or schools for pregnant and parenting students must be completely voluntary and must offer opportunities equal to those offered for non-pregnant students.

Absences due to pregnancy or childbirth must be excused for as long as medically necessary by the student's doctor. Schools must let students make up the work they missed while out due to pregnancy or any related conditions, including recovery from childbirth.

Common amongst USM institutions is the pregnant students may request academic accommodations through the appropriate campus educational support and services office. Academic accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis as they pertain to the physical circumstances of pregnancy and any related medical conditions. This is a distinct time period that may include: the duration of the student's pregnancy, physical recovery and/or post

pregnancy medical or psychological conditions that would be considered a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The institutions that comprise the USM, their leadership and staff, understand the rights of pregnant and parenting students under Title IX. It is in the highest, best interest of the USM and the State of Maryland to increase graduation rates and provide support for motivated students facing the challenges of parenthood. Institutions pay attention to what's working, what's not working, and what kind of barriers students may still experience throughout a semester.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor's degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by the Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.