



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 341

Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts regarding Senate Bill 341. The bill requires University System of Maryland (USM) institutions to develop and implement comprehensive reproductive health services plans including referrals to off-campus health providers.

I think there is value in supporting campuses to work with students to develop and promote a reproductive health services plan. Access to reproductive health care is a critical issue for college students. An unwanted or unplanned pregnancy can be a barrier to finishing school and can leave students with the debts already accrued and no degree to show for it.

The Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision has put an even greater focus on the need for access to reproductive health care, including emergency contraceptives, birth control, and accurate information on preventing STIs and unwanted pregnancy. It can be difficult for students to access Plan B or other forms of emergency contraception and so UMBC has made oral emergency contraception available through our campus convenience store, as well as through vending machines open 24 hours a day in the library. We also provide it in our health center. There is a clear need for this; our first few orders sold out and we now stock larger quantities.

UMBC also has health education services that are referred to in the bill available through our Office of Health Promotion. We are also lucky to have other services available nearby via UMBC shuttle and public transportation. I think it would be highly valuable to have an integrated plan on our and other campuses so students will know how to access the broad range of options available both on and off campus. I think it would be very valuable to have students engaged in the implementation of this plan. Student involvement would help ensure we are meeting student needs and support the dissemination of the plan. Beyond UMBC, I appreciate that the bill sponsors are working closely with USM to propose amendments to meet the needs of the system's diverse campuses.

Thank you for considering my thoughts regarding the importance of Senate Bill 341.