



Opposition Statement HB367

Community Colleges – Contraception – Access Requirements
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Maryland Right to Life

Maryland Right to Life Strongly Oppose HB367.

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we strongly object to HB367. **This bill forces community colleges to become active partners with the abortion industry using taxpayer funds.** Contraception includes the minipill or Opill and emergency contraception pills also known as “morning after” pills. There are many high school students who also attend community college which means that minor girls will also have access to abortifacient birth control. This undermines the ability of parents to discuss medication decisions with their minor daughter. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude this bill from being used for abortion purposes.

The Opill is newly approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for over the counter (OTC) use. It contains norgestrel which is the synthetic form of progesterin. The Opill is a 0.075mg pill taken once per day every day. The pill works by preventing ovulation, or by thickening cervical mucus to prevent sperm from reaching the egg, **or by thinning the uterine lining to prevent implantation of a fertilized egg in the womb (abortion).** Risks include liver problems, ectopic pregnancy and severe allergic reaction. (mayoclinic.org)

Emergency contraception pills are taken as a one-dose pill after sex. The emergency contraception pill **contains 1.5 mg norgestrel, which is 20 times the dose of the daily Opill** taken all in one dose. It is important to note that girls could take this high dose hormone regularly which is not how its meant to be used and could cause serious health problems. This pill also works by preventing ovulation **or preventing implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus (abortion).** Risks include severe bleeding and ectopic pregnancy. The likelihood of those risks increase if this high-dose hormone is taken often, like after each sexual encounter, in place of a lower dose birth control pill. (mayoclinic.org)

Maryland is a State Sponsor of Abortion. The Abortion Care Access Act provides that taxpayer funds are used to pay for abortion through Medicaid and private health insurance providers. This legislation will further use taxpayer funds to provide abortifacient birth control to community college students or anyone who has access to the community college.

Maryland is Failing to Protect Children. Because there are minor, high school girls who attend community colleges, minor girls will have easier access to these abortifacient pills. Maryland is again failing to protect children and creating a barrier for parental involvement.



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We urge you to consider the health and well-being of all women and girls by adding an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from this bill. Without the amendment, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB367.