

My name is Dr, Robert Spear, and I am submitting written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 527 which will require contraception access on community college campuses.

Last year the Legislature passed a bill requiring contraception access at the state's four-year higher education institutions. It is only logical to extend this access to students attending our community colleges.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, Maryland higher education schools (including graduate programs) enrolled 173,258 students. Of these 94,834 or more than 54% were community college students. Hence, last year's legislation addressed the needs of less than half of Maryland 's college students.

In higher education overall in the state of Maryland, 65.6% of students are Maryland residents and 34.4% are out of state. Since the out-of-state students are concentrated in our four-year colleges and universities, it follows the our community colleges overwhelmingly serve Maryland residents. Our law should prioritize serving Maryland residents, who are found largely at community colleges.

Please vote for Senate Bill 527.

--Dr. Robert J Spear,
retired professor, Prince George's Community College
member of Mountain Maryland Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (MMARF)

Reference: Credit Headcount Enrollment, MHEC [Microsoft Power BI \(powerbigov.us\)](https://powerbigov.us), page 5