

Date of Hearing 2/14/2024

Emily Blank
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TESTIMONY ON SB527- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Community Colleges-Contraception-Access Requirements

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Emily C. Blank

My name is Emily C Blank. I am a resident of District 47a. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB527, Community Colleges-Contraception-Access Requirements.

My name is Emily Blank. I am a member of Congregation Oseh Shalom in Laurel, MD, and I retired from teaching economics at Howard University in May 2023.

Regardless of how one regards premarital sex, I would argue that college students (at least those over the age of 18) have the right to decide for themselves whether or not to engage in coitus. I would further argue that anyone who has this right, deserves to have readily accessible, affordable birth control. An unplanned pregnancy can derail the education of not only the pregnant woman, but her partner as well. In a world in which increasingly, an Associate degree is the bare minimum for most people to achieve financial stability, reliable birth control is important. Further, a truly unwanted pregnancy may be a disaster not only for the parents, but for the unwanted child and for society at large. Are we really confident that even a child given up for adoption will find a decent family?

In sum, I argue that Community Colleges should provide birth control to their students, in order to help students complete their educations, and to thoughtfully plan child-bearing. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB527.**