



Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill Number: SB 527 - Community Colleges - Contraception - Access Requirements

Hearing Date: February 14, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 527 - Community Colleges - Contraception - Access Requirements*. The bill will require each community college, in consultation with students and student organizations, to develop and implement a plan to provide students with access to over-the-counter (OTC) contraception during the hours when the campus is open for classes.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation that requires public colleges and universities to provide access to OTC contraception at four-year public colleges and universities. Illinois also enacted similar legislation in the same year. ACNM strongly supported that legislation because of the need for accessible contraception on-campus. Many students live on campus and cannot easily access OTC contraception off-campus because of the lack of transportation and the scarcity of pharmacy and retail locations that provide access.

Community college students also need access to contraception. While community colleges generally do not have student health centers to dispense prescribed contraception, we are fortunate that there are now more OTC contraception options. This summer, the Food and Drug Administration approved Opill, the first OTC birth control pill for daily use. College campuses have several options, including campus retail locations and vending machines, to provide access to OTC contraception.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.