
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 1171 - Nonprescription Drugs and Devices – Provision by Registered Nurses and Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices
Hearing:	March 1, 2024
Position:	Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *HB 1171-- Nonprescription Drugs and Devices – Provision by Registered Nurses and Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices*. This bill removes an outdated prohibition against selling contraceptive and/or prophylactic devices in vending machines. The bill also requires the Committee on Registered Nurses Personally Preparing and Dispensing Drugs and Devices in Local Health Departments to develop procedures that allow registered nurses to provide FDA-approved, nonprescription contraceptive drugs and devices.

Currently, more than 294,000 women in Maryland live in contraceptive deserts.¹ This bill will dramatically improve access to contraception in Maryland by increasing both the number of places individuals can purchase contraception and by increasing the number of people able to provide contraception in the state. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, access to family planning and contraceptive services ranks as one of the 10 greatest achievements made in public health during the 20th century.² This is largely due to the copious public health and socio-economic benefits associated with access to contraception. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research lists higher educational attainment, better career outcomes, higher earnings, and a dramatic reduction in poverty rates as some of the economic benefits of contraceptive access.³ When communities decrease the incidence of unintended pregnancy, there are clear socio-economic benefits.

¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/pregnancy-desires-and-pregnancies-state-level-estimates-2017>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056796.htm>

³ https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381_Contraception-Access_Final.pdf

This is in addition to the public health benefits of better contraceptive access. Between 2016 and 2020, sexually transmitted infection rates rose steadily. The rate of primary and secondary syphilis rose 50% nationwide, but Maryland's rate of primary and secondary syphilis rose 69% during that period.⁴ Condoms on demand are a sure way to decrease the incidence of STIs, reduce the number of unintended pregnancies across the state, and improve community health outcomes.

Every person should have easy access to over-the-counter contraception. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Erin Bradley at erin.bradley@ppm.care or (443) 604-3544.

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/std/dstdp/sti-funding-at-work/jurisdictional-spotlights/maryland.pdf>