



Secular Maryland

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February 13, 2024

HB 367 - SUPPORT

Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policy

Dear Chair Ben Barnes, Vice-Chair Mark S. Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Access to comprehensive contraceptive care with as few logistical, financial, and stigma related barriers as possible increases positive health outcomes for individuals and their communities. When people can get their preferred method of birth control, rates of unintended pregnancy, preterm births, and short interval pregnancies all decrease. Contraceptive access is associated with increased financial and educational opportunities. Students should not need to choose between finding alternative locations of care, which can present challenges such as off-campus transportation and cost, or go without contraception, increasing their risk of unintended pregnancy. Secular Maryland advocates for providing comprehensive and quality reproductive health care. We therefore support this bill mandating community colleges to develop and implement a plan to provide students with access to over-the-counter contraception.

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