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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**

**Senate Bill 511**  
**Public Senior Higher Education Institutions**  
**Pregnant and Parenting Students Plan requirements**  
**(Cross filed with HB0840 - Delegate Althea McCaskill)**

Chairman Feldman and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce and provide important details regarding SB 511- on Public Senior Higher Education Institutions – Requirements for a Plan for Pregnant and Parenting Students Plan.

Previously introduced in 2024 in the house, SB511 recognizes the challenges faced by a select group of students – especially women of color who are parenting and pregnant – by providing vital support services that enable them to complete their education. The bill will require that Maryland’s public education institutions have an adopted plan in place that states where the much-needed support services are available to help pregnant and parenting students while they are completing their own education process.

All public senior high schools and other higher education institutions will be required to follow the Title IX model, to produce and adopt a plan for pregnant and parenting students with referral information on referral as to the location of on and off-campus services – and to assist them in learning about the availability of or eligibility for specific government assistance programs, scholarships, or subsidies that may be available. Each public senior higher education institution will be required to post this plan on the institution's website on or before August 1, 2026. This revision or update to the existing legislation ensures that the implementation and reporting processes for the new provisions are consistent with the established framework of the bill.

The target student population, who are the main focus are "Pregnant and parenting students" - those who are expecting a child or already have dependent children. The targeted institutions are Maryland’s public senior high schools, universities community and 4-year colleagues – all of whom are the institutions subject to the existing law – "Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans -Requirements", except as exempted.

After hearing today’s testimony, I urge the Committee to give a favorable decision on this bill.