

To: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 674 - Maryland Commission for Women - Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control

Date: February 18, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Women's Law Center of Maryland strongly supports *Senate Bill 647 – Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control*. The bill establishes a collaborative of reproductive justice advocates, insurers and pharmacy benefit managers, and pharmacies and pharmacies to advance implementation of coverage of over-the-counter birth control.

Maryland was the first state to adopt coverage requirements for over-the-counter birth control with the Maryland Contraceptive Equity Act of 2016. Now, a total of 10 states have adopted similar requirements. The Health and Human Services was on the verge of adopting broad coverage requirements for over-the-counter birth control before the change in administrations.

Although Maryland's coverage requirements have been on the books for nearly 10-years, there are few consumers who have been able to use their insurance for over-the-counter birth control. The Women's Law Center of Maryland has been partnering with Ibis Reproductive Health and Reproductive Justice Maryland to assess the impact of implementation delays. We believe a collaborative can identify and support practical and concrete solutions to ensuring over-the-counter coverage works in Maryland.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.