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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 14, 2025

To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair  
Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for SB674: Maryland Commission for Women - Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control. This essential legislation represents a significant step forward in ensuring equitable, accessible, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare for women across Maryland.

Access to over-the-counter birth control is a critical component of women's health and family planning. By establishing the Maryland Collaborative to study access to these medications, SB674 will provide vital insights into the challenges women face in obtaining birth control and identify actionable solutions to improve access. Reliable, affordable contraceptive options empower women to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, which in turn supports healthier families and stronger communities.

Maryland women, particularly those in low-income, rural, and historically underserved communities, often encounter barriers when seeking reproductive healthcare. These obstacles can lead to delayed or inconsistent use of contraception, increasing the risk of unintended pregnancies and associated health complications. The findings and recommendations from this Collaborative will help guide policy decisions that promote accessibility, reduce disparities, and improve outcomes for women across the state.

This legislation aligns with the Caucus's commitment to advancing policies that protect and enhance the health, well-being, and autonomy of women in Maryland. Ensuring streamlined access to over-the-counter birth control will provide countless women with the tools they need to manage their reproductive health safely and effectively.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report for SB674. By supporting this bill, Maryland will continue to lead in promoting women's health and reproductive rights through informed, evidence-based policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued dedication to the health and well-being of Maryland women.