



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 1045 – Health Insurance and Family Planning Services - Consumer Protections - Updates – Letter of Support As Amended

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill 1045 – Health Insurance and Family Planning Services - Consumer Protections - Updates. This bill updates references to federal law related to family planning services to ensure that the Maryland Family Planning Program (MFPP) can continue to fund Title X providers added to the program after December 2016.

In 2017, the General Assembly wisely foresaw the possibility of changes to federal rules, which were ultimately issued in 2019, prohibiting the use of family planning funding to abortion providers or referrers. To ensure continuity of family planning services, HB 1081 of 2017 created the MFPP and tasked it with providing Marylanders and healthcare services with the same level of funding as the fiscal year before Title X federal funds were lost due to changes to the federal program. HB 1045 would update the prior legislation to account for provider changes that have taken place in MFPP in the years since 2017.

The MFPP is expected to serve more than 50,000 clients in fiscal year (FY) 2025 with essential family planning services. In FY 2024, approximately 45,000 individuals were provided contraceptive products, pregnancy testing and counseling, basic infertility services, pre-conception counseling, breast and cervical cancer screenings, substance use screening and referrals, hypertension management, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, or referrals for other services. Continuing to provide these free and low-cost reproductive health services is essential to preventing unintended pregnancies, and it also furthers other socioeconomic goals and well-being. The Department strongly supports this effort to maintain its commitment to current family planning providers and continuity of care for its clients in the event of federal funding changes.

The amendments to HB 1045 add gender-affirming care alongside reproductive health services in the definition of “sensitive health services,” and include gender-affirming care in the

definition of “legally protected health care.” These amendments align with the Department’s mission and the Department supports them.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary