



BILL NO: House Bill 380
TITLE: Criminal Law - Prohibition on Sale of Contraceptives and Contraceptive Devices by Vending Machine in School - Repeal
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: February 4, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 380.**

House Bill 380 would repeal current law that makes of the sale of certain contraceptives and contraceptive devices by means of a vending machine or other automatic device at certain schools a misdemeanor with possible fine of up to \$1000 per machine. MNADV supports this bill as it will help women and girls with access to important reproductive care.

Availability at schools can help by reducing rates of unintended pregnancies. Contraception also reduces the need for unsafe abortion and reduces HIV transmissions from mothers to newborns. This can also benefit the education of girls and create opportunities for women to participate more fully in society. Nationwide, less than 5 percent of high schools and only 1 percent of middle schools make condoms available to students.¹ In Howard and Montgomery Counties at least, school nurses provide condoms. But not all students will feel comfortable seeking out the nurse, so vending machines are an important option.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 380.**

¹<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1450350/>

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org