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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>House Judiciary Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>House Bill 380 - Criminal Law - Prohibition on Sale of Contraceptives and Contraceptive Devices by Vending Machine in School - Repeal</b>
<b>Hearing:</b>	<b>February 4, 2025</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 380 – Criminal Law - Prohibition on Sale of Contraceptives and Contraceptive Devices by Vending Machine in School - Repeal*. This bill removes an outdated prohibition on, and criminal penalty related to, selling or offering contraceptives/contraceptive devices in vending machines in Maryland schools.

Currently, more than 284,000 women in Maryland live in contraceptive deserts.<sup>1</sup> This bill will dramatically improve access to contraception in Maryland by increasing both the number of places individuals can purchase contraception and by allowing for contraception to be available in places where young people congregate. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, access to family planning and contraceptive services ranks as one of the 10 greatest achievements made in public health during the 20th century.<sup>2</sup> This is largely due to the several public health and socio-economic benefits associated with access to contraception – including higher educational attainment, better career outcomes, higher earnings, and a dramatic reduction in poverty rates, according to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.<sup>3</sup> When communities decrease the incidence of unintended pregnancy, there are clear socio-economic benefits.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/contraceptive-deserts>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056796.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381\\_Contraception-Access\\_Final.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381_Contraception-Access_Final.pdf)

As a non-profit provider of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports this effort to increase access to items that allow an individual to make an informed decision for their own body. Allowing contraceptives to be sold in vending machines, even in Maryland schools, would solidify the foundation that the state has carefully constructed in a post *Roe* America. All Marylanders deserve the right to maintain bodily autonomy, particularly now as there is a clear movement seeking to eliminate it.

Every person — even those in our schools — should have easy access to over-the-counter contraception. **We respectfully ask for a favorable report on this legislation.** If we can provide any additional information, please contact Erin Bradley at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care) or (443) 604-3544.