HB1076_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/03/2026
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/1076 – FAVORABLE**

**Higher Education Institutions - Over-the-Counter Contraception - Access and Reporting**

**TO**: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and members of the Appropriations Committee
**FROM**: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1076 Higher Education Institutions - Over-the-Counter Contraception - Access and Reporting**

Providing contraception access in higher education settings offers significant benefits, primarily by enabling women to **delay childbirth, pursue their academic goals, and achieve greater economic security**. [1] Key benefits include:

Enhanced Educational Attainment
Increased Enrollment and Graduation, On-Time Completion, Pursuit of Advanced Degrees

Improved Economic Prospects
Higher Lifetime Earnings, Reduced Poverty, Narrowed Gender Pay Gap

Better Health Outcomes
Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies, Improved Maternal and Infant Health, Non-Contraceptive Health Benefits

Enhanced Well-being and Autonomy
Empowerment, Improved Mental Health

By addressing barriers like cost, lack of awareness, and limited provider availability, higher education institutions can significantly support students' academic success and long-term well-being. Multiple academic studies support these conclusions.

This bill will require each public senior higher education institution and community college to submit a report on contraception access to the Maryland Higher Education Commission each year; requiring the Commission to submit a report on contraception access to the General Assembly each year beginning October 1, 2026; and requiring each community college to provide students with access to all methods of over-the-counter contraception.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB1076.**

[1] Google AI Search "benefits of higher education providing contraception access"