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February 27, 2026

The Honorable Representative Ben Barnes  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
121 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for HB 1076 - Higher Education Institutions - Over-the-Counter Contraception - Access and Reporting**

Dear Chairman Barnes,

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA)<sup>1</sup>, I am writing to express strong support for HB 1076. The legislation broadens Maryland's access to contraception by mandating higher education institutions and community colleges in the state provide students with access to all forms of over-the-counter (OTC) contraception.

Access to contraceptives has significant health, social, and economic benefits, including reducing unintended pregnancies, abortions, and improving outcomes for planned pregnancies. Women ages 18-25 have the highest rates of unintended pregnancies<sup>2</sup>, yet many college students have trouble accessing methods of contraception due to cost barriers, privacy concerns, and logistical challenges such as transportation to off-campus pharmacies.

HB 1076 mandates contraceptive availability in student health centers, retail establishments on campus, and vending machines, among other methods. By requiring availability in these spaces, the bill meets students where they are and removes much of the friction that prevents consistent contraceptive use.

HB 1076 represents a meaningful step toward expanding contraceptive access for students throughout Maryland. We are grateful to Delegate Smith for introducing this legislation and strongly encourage its passage. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions regarding our position.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> Consumer Healthcare Products Association is the national trade association representing the manufacturers of nonprescription drugs, dietary supplements and over-the-counter medical devices

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/contraceptive-options-for-women-on-college-campuses>



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CC: Members of the House Appropriations Committee