

SB0532_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0532 – FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment 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 SB#0532 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 SB0532.

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