

# EZRA MACLEOD TOWNE

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## Testimony Favorable to SB0532: Higher Education Institutions – Over-the-Counter Contraception – Access and Reporting

March 9, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Ezra Towne, and my pronouns are they/them. I am the parent of two children, one of whom is starting college this fall. **I am writing to you today to ask you to vote favorably on SB0532: Higher Education Institutions – Over-the-Counter Contraception – Access and Reporting.**

Much of SB0532 is already established Maryland state law - but this bill serves as a needed update to that legislation.

1. The bill broadens the definition of over-the-counter contraception to include both contraceptive devices AND medication approved by the FDA and available without a prescription.
2. It more concretely defines what counts as a “public senior higher education institution.”
3. Further defines the type of annual reporting required by institutions by September 1 of each calendar year. Reports must now include how students are provided access, and the contraceptive types and amounts provided In addition, reports must also include evidence that it has consulted with students and student organizations about providing contraception to students.
4. Requires that a report be given to the General Assembly by October 1 of each calendar year from the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

The barriers to contraception access for students include lack of access to on-campus health services, limited clinic hours and lengthy wait times, and lack of transportation to obtain contraception off of campus.<sup>1</sup>

I do not want my daughter to experience any of these barriers while in college caused by lack of access to ALL forms of over-the-counter contraception. **For these reasons, I fully support the expansions detailed in SB0532 and urge a favorable report.**

Sincerely,  
Ezra MacLeod Towne  
Wheaton, Maryland, D18

<sup>1</sup> National Council of State Legislatures, “Contraceptive Options for Women on College Campuses,” October 15, 2025

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