



March 12, 2024

Senate Bill 944

**Nonprescription Drugs and Devices - Provision by Registered Nurses and
Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices**

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 944 – Nonprescription Drugs and Devices - Provision by Registered Nurses and Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices

Women’s health rights are under attack in states across the country, and Maryland has an obligation to remain a safe haven for women to make the best decisions for their lives and livelihoods. While we are taking steps to codify these rights, we can always do more, and ensuring that men and women have unfettered access to effective contraceptives is vital to this effort.

Senate Bill 944 provides a critical boost to reproductive freedom by enabling registered nurses to distribute contraceptives that do not require a prescription. By allowing registered nurses to distribute nonprescription contraceptives in a local health department, Marylanders have increased access to crucial health care. Physicians and nurses who may experience a high volume of cases at local health departments would benefit as they would be able to bypass a critical barrier and directly provide the assistance needed to their patients.

We have the opportunity to show that Maryland will do everything possible to fight back against restrictive laws that limit women’s choice for their health. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 944.