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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
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March 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB1171 Nonprescription Drugs and Devices – Provision by Registered Nurses and Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices.**

This bill repeals the prohibition on the sale of certain contraceptives by means of a vending machine or other automatic device and authorizes registered nurses to provide, without a prescription, nonprescription drugs and devices in a local health department under certain circumstances. This legislation ensures that women who need contraceptives but may not have the ability to get a prescription can receive it. This would also allow nurse practitioners to give nonprescription contraceptives, this means that those who need it but cannot get a timely appointment with a doctor are still able to receive contraceptives. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support simplifying the process to gain access to contraceptives and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President