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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 13, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
East Miller Senate Office Building, Room 2
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair William C. Smith, Jr,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **SB949 Consumer Protection – Self-Administered Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits**.

This bill provides that a party in a criminal trial involving an allegation of a sexual crime may not introduce evidence that physical evidence of a sexual crime was obtained using certain materials, providing that selling, offering for sale, or distributing a certain self-administered sexual assault evidence collection kit is an unfair, deceptive, or abusive trade practice. This legislation ensures that the distribution of self-administered sexual assault kits comes from the Maryland Department of Health rather than a 3rd party seller that would profit off of the kits. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support the victims of sexual assault and make the process of evidence collection simpler for them and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President