

Senate Bill 1081 – Health – Family Planning Services – Continuity of Care

Senate Finance Committee

March 8, 2017

SUPPORT

Consumer Health First (formerly the Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform), is a nonpartisan, statewide alliance of thousands of individuals and one hundred organizations working to promote health equity through high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for all Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our strong support for Senate Bill 1081 – *Health – Family Planning Services – Continuity of Care*.

SB 1081 ensures that women receiving family planning services, either through Medicaid or Title X, will be able to continue to access their providers, even if federal action discontinues federal funding. Planned Parenthood provides services to 31% of contraceptive clients who are covered through public programs¹ in Maryland. If Planned Parenthood can no longer participate in the Medicaid and Title X programs, it will imperil access to family planning services for thousands of women and men, as there is not sufficient capacity in the provider community to serve these individuals.

As we demonstrated in our 2015 report, *Network Adequacy in Maryland: A Report on Provider Directories and Women’s Access to OB/GYN Services*, there are substantial problems around access to women’s reproductive health in Qualified Health Plan networks. Our research found that only 22% of providers could actually provide a well-woman visit within a four-week timeframe. Clearly, there would be capacity issues for family planning services should Planned Parenthood no longer be able to provide such services under Medicaid and Title X.

The elimination of Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid and Title X programs would have devastating consequences for thousands of Marylanders. We cannot allow irresponsible federal action to impact the availability of family planning services in Maryland.

We ask for your support of SB 1081 and urge a favorable report.