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# Women's Law Center of Maryland

## Celebrating 53 Years of Advancing Justice

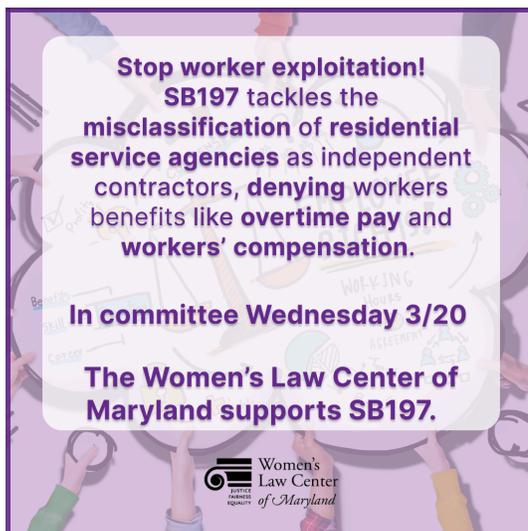
### **Monday was an exciting day in Annapolis!**

Yesterday was **Cross-Over Day** when bills from either chamber must "cross over" to the other to be considered for passage. This pivotal moment marks a critical milestone in the Maryland legislative process, shaping the trajectory of proposed laws for the remainder of the session.

Cross-Over Day is crucial because it is a deadline for bills to move from one chamber to another. Any bill that doesn't cross over by this deadline is typically considered dead for the remainder of the legislative session. Therefore, it's a make-or-break moment for many proposed laws, determining whether they can advance and become enacted. This day often sees intense legislative activity as lawmakers work to prioritize bills and ensure their passage before the deadline.



## **Wednesday March 20th:**



### **SB197- Residential Service Agencies- Reimbursement- Personal Assistance Services- Homecare Workers Rights Act of 2024**

**SB197** addresses the illegal practice of misclassifying residential service agencies as independent contractors rather than employees. This practice denies many workers benefits, such as overtime pay, minimum wage, and workers' compensation.

**SB197** is in the House Health and Government Operations Committee

on Wednesday, 3/20! [Contact House Health and Government Operations Committee members for a favorable vote.](#)

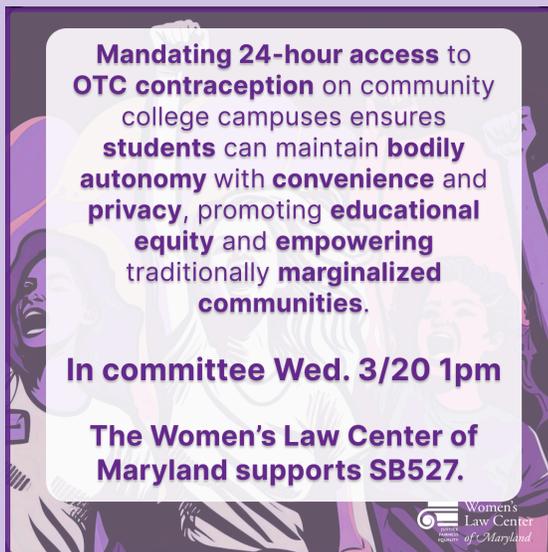
**SB197** will be heard on Wednesday, 3/20, at 1pm!  
Click below to [email members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee](#) and ask for a favorable vote.

Email House Health and Government Operations Committee Members to support SB197

### **SB527- Community Colleges- Contraception- Access Requirements**

**SB527** will require each community college to develop and implement a plan to provide students with over-the-counter (OTC) contraception. Contraception access is essential for college students' health, well-being, and success.

**SB527** is in the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, 3/20! [Contact members of the House Appropriations Committee](#) asking for a favorable vote!



**Mandating 24-hour access to OTC contraception** on community college campuses ensures **students can maintain bodily autonomy with convenience and privacy**, promoting **educational equity and empowering traditionally marginalized communities.**

**In committee Wed. 3/20 1pm**

**The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports SB527.**

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**SB527** will be heard on Wednesday, 3/20, at 1 pm!  
Click below to [email members of the House Appropriations Committee](#) and ask for a favorable vote.

Email House Appropriations Committee Members to support SB527



**Intersectional feminism is essential.** Advancing justice for women always **includes trans women.** SB119 ensures **meaningful access to gender-affirming treatment** for over **20,000 transgender Marylanders.**

**In committee Wed. 3/20 1pm**

**The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports SB119.**

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### **SB119 - Legally Protected Health Care- Gender Affirming Care**

**SB119** expands Maryland's reproductive health shielding laws to include gender-affirming care. This bill will protect the lives of transgender and nonbinary youth and their families who seek services for them in Maryland and Maryland providers.

SB119 is in the House Health and Government Operations Committee on Wednesday, 3/20! [Contact members of the House Health and](#)

[Government Operations Committee](#) asking for a favorable vote!

**SB119 will be heard in the House Health and Government Operations Committee on Wednesday, 3/20, at 1pm.**

**Click below to email House Health and Government Operations Committee members and ask for a favorable vote.**

**Email House Health and Government Operations Committee members, urging favorable vote on SB119**

## ***Thursday March 21st:***

### **HB406- Marriage-Confidential Communications**

**HB406** would allow victims the right to testify about an apology or statement of remorse made by their spouse who is charged with committing a crime against them. The bill would give the victim the opportunity, but not compel them, to testify about these statements in the criminal case against the abusive spouse, thus allowing the victim autonomy over the decision.

**HB406** is in the Judicial Proceedings Committee on Thursday, 3/21! **Contact members of Judicial Proceedings asking for a favorable vote!**



**Empower victims to choose** whether they **testify** on **statements** of apology or remorse made by **abusive spouses**. HB406 ensures victims have **autonomy over their testimony**, providing them with the opportunity to seek **justice on their terms**.

**In committee Thursday  
3/21 1pm**

**The Women's Law Center of Maryland  
supports HB406**



**HB406 will be heard on Thursday, 3/21, at 1 pm!**

**Click below to email members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and ask for a favorable vote.**

**Email JPR Committee members, urging favorable vote on HB406**



**Say no to discrimination!**

**HB602 prohibits** employment discrimination based on **sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation**.

**In committee Thursday 3/21**

**The Women's Law Center of  
Maryland supports HB602!**



### **HB602 Employment Discrimination- Sexual Orientation**

**HB602** prohibits discrimination in the workplace because of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill explicitly prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on sexual orientation when it comes to wages and employment opportunities.

**HB602** is in the Senate Finance Committee Thursday 3/21! **Contact members of the Senate Finance Committee** asking for a favorable vote!

**HB602 will be heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, 3/21.  
Click below to email members of the Senate Finance Committee and ask  
for a favorable vote.**

**Email Senate Finance Committee members, urging favorable vote on HB602**

We will provide updates on these bills and others we are working on as session progresses. In the meantime, don't forget to let [your legislators](#) know about what issues matter most to you!

Onward together,



***Katie Curran O'Malley***  
Executive Director

P.S. As always, if you appreciate the work we do, whether in the General Assembly or through our direct legal services across the State, [give here!](#) And if this email was forwarded to you by a friend, make sure to sign up for our legislative alerts [here](#). Want to stay in touch and receive general, non-legislative updates? [Sign up here](#) for our general interest updates.

**P.P.S. Get your tickets for the WLC's Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 7th at 6pm at Citron!**

P.P.P.S. WLC is proud to join the [Federal Bar Association, Maryland Chapter](#), in hosting a webinar discussion featuring the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia on the rich history of women lawyers in Maryland and the ongoing imperative to advocate for gender equality.

When: Tuesday, March 12th, 12 pm

Where: Webinar

**RSVP Today & join the conversation!**

Have an event you'd like to share with us? Send us an [email!](#)

#### About The Women's Law Center of Maryland

The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

**Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.**

Give Today

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.*



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