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Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 0208: Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products
****SUPPORT****

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Fearlessly Loving Yourself, Inc. (FLY) is a nonprofit mentoring program for girls ages 7 to 18 in Southwest Baltimore. Our mission is to provide a safe space that inspires confidence and personal advancement through mentoring and building opportunities for success. **FLY supports the passage of House Bill 0208: Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products** Requiring each county board of education to ensure that each public school provides, at no charge to students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the restrooms at the school.

Each enrolled youth in the FLY Program receives two hygiene kits: one for home and one for their locker at school. We have made this part of our program because our youth face so many barriers and challenges as it is so having to deal with access to menstrual hygiene products, which are quite costly, should not be one of them.

One section we would like to emphasize in this proposed legislation is that the products being placed in schools be appropriate in size and quality. We have seen youth as young as 6 years old start their menstrual cycle which can be complicated when all of our products are designed for fully grown adults. However, we have started to see a shift in design. Companies like Always® and Tampax® are changing that by developing products for younger girls. There are now sanitary napkins that are designed significantly smaller for teen and tween youth.

We respectfully urge this committee to **SUPPORT** House Bill 0208: House Bill 0208: Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products.