
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 588– Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies – Feminine Hygiene Products

Hearing Date: March 30, 2022

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *HB 588- Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies – Feminine Hygiene Products*. This bill would require local health departments and community action agencies, with an appropriation from the Governor, to provide feminine hygiene products at no cost to any woman enrolled in the Maryland Medicaid Medical Assistance Program.

As an established and trusted community reproductive health care provider, serving Marylanders for more than 90 years and counting, we believe that cost and access should be no barrier for individuals who require menstrual hygiene products. The research demonstrates that “period poverty”, meaning the lack of access to menstrual hygiene products, is common among low-income communities. In a study in St. Louis, two-thirds of low-income women could not afford menstrual hygiene products in the prior year.ⁱ

Access to menstrual hygiene products is important for both the health and dignity of all Marylanders. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ Sebert Kuhlmann, Anne PhD, MPH; Peters Bergquist, Eleanor MA, MSPH; Danjoint, Djenie MPH; Wall, L. Lewis MD, DPhil Unmet Menstrual Hygiene Needs Among Low-Income Women, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*: February 2019 - Volume 133 - Issue 2 - p 238-244
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