



2/21/2022

**Re: Support of HB 588 – Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies - Feminine Hygiene Products**

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) to urge your support of HB 588 – Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies - Feminine Hygiene Products.

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of Maryland's 17 Community Action Agencies, which collectively serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward eradicating homelessness and poverty to realize our vision of ensuring that all Maryland individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities.

MCAP supports HB 588 because of its impact on the girls and women with low-income that our organizations serve.

**If passed, the bill would:**

- Require local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies to make feminine hygiene products available to any women enrolled in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, in an amount sufficient to meet the needs of the woman obtaining the feminine hygiene products.
- Require the Governor to include funding in the annual budget, in an amount estimated to be sufficient for providing feminine hygiene products.

Period poverty is defined by the American Medical Women's Association as "inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management." MCAP supports this legislation as it exemplifies the best practices in making feminine hygiene products available to women with low-income. We believe that this bill support the right for everyone to live with decency and dignity. It is time for Maryland women to receive full access to feminine hygiene products, regardless of their ability to purchase said products. Meeting this basic need will contribute to the foundation that Marylanders with low-income need to fully engage with and thrive in their educational and employment endeavors and build a better future for themselves and their families.

If there is any additional information that I can provide for you as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me at [amartin@maryland-cap.org](mailto:amartin@maryland-cap.org), or by calling 205-757-0764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Martin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Angela Martin, Executive Director