



**Written Testimony for the Record in Support of House Bill 941**

**Public Health- Public Buildings- Hygiene Products**

**Position: FAVORABLE WITH CLARIFYING AMENDMENT**

**Submitted to:** House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**Submitted by:** Dr. Marilyn F. Berchie-Gialamas, Executive Director

**Organization:** Trinity Maternity Wellness, Inc.

**Date of Hearing:** March 4, 2026

Chair Melissa Wells, Vice Chair Kenneth Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Marilyn F. Berchie-Gialamas. I am the Executive Director of Trinity Maternal Wellness, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on promoting equitable and respectful support for women to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 941 (HB0941), which is sponsored by House Delegate Terri Hill and requires an adequate supply of hygiene products, including menstrual hygiene products, to be provided in public restrooms. This is an important and necessary step toward advancing public health, dignity, and maternal wellness.

Access to menstrual and postpartum hygiene products is essential for infection prevention and overall health. When individuals do not have access to appropriate hygiene products, they may resort to unsafe alternatives or extend the use of menstrual hygiene products beyond the recommended timeframes, thereby increasing the risk of infection, toxic shock syndrome, and other complications. Ultimately, this issue is about equity. Individuals from low-income communities' experience disparities in maternal health outcomes and are disproportionately affected by limited access. Providing menstrual hygiene products in public buildings, as well as other hygiene products (such as hand soap, toilet paper, water, waste containers, and towels or hand drying devices) ensures that all individuals in Maryland can access necessary resources without compromising health or dignity.

While Trinity Maternal Wellness strongly supports HB0941, we respectfully recommend clarification of the bill's requirement that public buildings maintain an "adequate supply" of hygiene products. The term "adequate supply" is not defined in the legislation and may lead to inconsistent implementation across public facilities. We, at Trinity Maternal Wellness, believe that clear guidance or minimum standards would ensure reliable and meaningful access across public facilities and fully advance the bill's intent.

In sum, HB0941 represents a practical, common sense public health measure that promotes maternal wellness, protects public health, and advances equity. Trinity Maternal Wellness urges this House Committee to issue a favorable report.

Thanks for your attention and commitment to improving the health and well-being of Maryland families.



Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas*

Marilyn F. Berchie-Gialamas

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