



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 25, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair  
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 941**: Public Health - Public Buildings – Hygiene Products

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

Menstruation is a biological reality that can quietly disrupt the education, health, and daily lives of millions of girls and women worldwide if not equipped with the necessary products to endure. Every month, lives are put on hold as girls and women are forced to navigate the pain, stigma, and disruption that comes with menstruating in a world that still refuses to fully accommodate their needs. We have a collective responsibility to make a change.

Ensuring adequately supplied, free products are readily available in public restrooms in public buildings, normalizes access to menstrual hygiene products for those that need it. Just like access to hand soap and toilet paper are norms, access to menstrual hygiene products should also be normalized. In doing so, we will not only reduce the stigma that comes with menstruation but will also reduce stress and financial distress for those who are in need. Studies show that one in four young women struggle with “period poverty” as they lack access to products.

To ensure Howard County Government is supporting the needs of its visitors, this past fall, I pledged to stock all County buildings, including libraries and senior centers, with free menstrual products by the end of 2025. Dispensers can now be found in our facilities’ women’s and all-gender bathrooms, with a number to call if products run out.

I urge the Committee to **support HB941**. Howard County Government has made tremendous strides toward normalizing menstruation, reducing stigma, and ensuring girls and women have the essential hygiene products necessary to thrive. HB941 will make it possible for public facilities across Maryland to expand even further.

A special thank you to our county’s own Delegate Hill and Delegate Pam Lanman Guzzone for their active roles and leadership toward this issue.

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive