



SB427 Public Schools – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products

Thursday, February 11, 2021

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUPPORT

Our names are Olivia Le, Zachary McGrath, and Florence Tian and we are students of Anne Arundel County and part of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) and support HB418 Public Schools – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products. This bill will require each county board of education to ensure that every public school will provide to its students, at no charge, menstrual hygiene products via dispenser in restrooms, with two restrooms that have dispensers in each school by October 1, 2021.

If passed, this bill will help to support a safe and effective learning environment for all students. Instead of students worrying if they will be able to afford hygiene products or where they can find them, students will be able to focus on education in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The menstrual period is a natural biological process affecting approximately 50 percent of all 9–14-year-old students assigned as female at birth. As a concurrence of this natural biological process, that 50 percent of students bear the added responsibility of menstrual period management for 3-7 days every month. To ease the burden these students must bear; we believe it prudent to provide menstrual hygiene products at no charge in all public middle and high schools. In one fell swoop, every county board of education may effectively reduce the burdens put on these children, both financially and psychologically, of menstrual period management. Because menstrual hygiene products provide for students who are already enduring increased stress, more intense mood swings, physical pain, among a host of physical and biological symptoms, this bill directly provides for student wellness. Providing menstrual hygiene products to students reduces student stress, negates an obstacle to student attendance (CRASC Platform Plank III, Clause J), and provides for student wellness (CRASC Platform Plank IV, Clause A). Therefore, providing menstrual hygiene products is well *within* the responsibilities of county boards of education.

CRASC requests that the bill be amended to include funding to our schools, based upon enrollment, to provide effective and equitable implementation.

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE with amendments** committee report on SB427.

Respectfully Submitted,

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