

## **HB005 Public Schools -- Provisions of Menstrual Hygiene Products**

Presented to the Honorable Anne Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means  
Committee

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Good Morning to the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee. My name is Alondra Labastida Campos, and I am a senior at La Plata High School in Charles County, Maryland.

Today I urge the committee to act against Period Poverty in Maryland.

Period poverty affects a multitude of people in the state, especially men and women of low-income homes. A couple of months ago, I volunteered with a non-profit organization called Stella's Girls at a baseball stadium near me to provide menstrual and personal hygiene products to women in my area. While volunteering, I saw the high demand for menstrual products in my county. Many of these women coming to us were low-income working mothers with children, that would often put their children's needs above their own.

As a High school student, I have experienced first-hand the lack of menstrual products at my school. The only accessible menstrual hygiene products are in a single bathroom is inside the school nurse's office. The problem with this is that our school nurses are not always available to us since some schools must share them. Most school nurses also require a "hall pass" to enter their office, which is not very convenient when you are possibly bleeding through their clothes. Each year, thousands of girls miss class and even full school days due to the lack of accessibility to hygiene products setting them back in their learning in school.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to help the students in Maryland need hygiene products, not to let something so natural as menstruation disrupt the learning environment of boys and girls in Maryland. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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