

SB0427 - Public Schools – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products
Presented to the Hon. Anne Kaiser of the House Ways & Means Committee
March 24, 2021 1:30 p.m.
POSITION: FAVORABLE

To the Hon. Anne Kaiser of the House Ways & Means Committee,

In 2019, 43.2% of Maryland public school students enrolled for free and reduced-price meals, indicating that their families struggled to afford basic necessities. Many students are of menstruating age. With this statistic and the state of COVID-19 exacerbating financial and racial disparities in mind, we urge you to support SB0427 to help provide free, quality menstrual products to public school students. Your support of this crucial legislation demonstrates your commitment to basic hygiene, gender equality, public health, and providing essential healthcare because menstrual health is healthcare.

A lack of access to menstrual products can significantly impact students' education, forcing them to miss class time or not participate fully due to fear of leakage. A recent New York study revealed that school attendance increased when students were provided with free menstrual hygiene products. Increased school attendance further allows female students to succeed in their academic and extracurricular goals and helps bridge gaps caused by poverty.

We are signing onto this letter because period poverty disproportionately impacts students of color from low-income families. Providing free menstrual hygiene products is a monumental step in bridging academic opportunities and reaching menstrual equity. We strongly urge you a favorable report on SB0427 and the fight for menstrual equity.

Joe Spielberger, ACLU of Maryland
Ann Steinberg, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Task Force on Long Range Planning
Prof. Margaret E. Johnson, Center on Applied Feminism - University of Baltimore
Maeve Sanford-Kelly, Maryland High School Democrats
Jessica Morgan, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
Sandy Bell, Maryland National Organization for Women
Jeannette Feldner, Montgomery County NOW
C.R. Valeriann, Baltimore NOW
Julia Gross, Marylanders Against Poverty
Diana Philip, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
Ela Jalil, PERIOD at Winston Churchill High School
Sara Carney & Ellie Frisch, Period Poverty Project
Ashley, Black, Public Justice Center
Kimberly Haven, Reproductive Justice Inside
Kaprece James, Stella's Girls Incorporated
Shamoyia Gardiner, Strong Schools Maryland
Michelle Siri, Women's Law Center of Maryland
Lindsay M. Harris