



HB0205 - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

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

January 27, 2021 1:30pm

POSITION: SUPPORT

Greater DC Diaper Bank **urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0205 - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**, sponsored by Delegate Kirill Reznik.

At Greater DC Diaper Bank (GDCDB), we distribute a wide variety of products to our partner organizations across the DC-metro region, including menstrual hygiene products. Our warehouse is located in Silver Spring, MD in House District 18. Just like diapers, menstrual hygiene products are costly and not included in any public support program. GDCDB firmly believes menstrual hygiene products are a basic need that deserves to be accessible to all who require them, whenever and wherever that may be, especially Maryland's public schools.

Greater DC Diaper Bank predominantly serves Prince George's County and Montgomery County through our partners, though often reaching Howard and Frederick Counties as well. We know the demand for accessible menstrual hygiene products in Maryland is great and we have only seen the demand grow as the pandemic continues to adversely impact Marylanders.

In 2019 we distributed nearly **146,000 period products** to our partner organizations in Maryland. In 2020, we distributed nearly **247,000 period products**, a nearly **70% increase**. We hear stories every day of the positive effect accessible, free basic needs like diapers, menstrual hygiene, and other hygiene products has on not just people's ability to participate and thrive in work and school, but on their mental and physical health as well.

Maryland public school students are our future: our future parents, our future business owners, and even our future elected officials. They deserve access to free, accessible menstrual hygiene products in our schools, something small that will emphasize our respect for the dignity of our state's young people. For these reasons, Greater DC Diaper Bank **urges a favorable committee report on HB0205**. Thank you for your time and consideration.