

Committee: House Appropriations and Health Committees

Bill: House Bill 457 – Institutions of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

Hearing Date: February 24, 2026

Position: Support

The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports *House Bill 457 – Institutions of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement*. The bill requires public higher education institutions to provide menstrual hygiene products without costs.

Providing people who menstruate with menstrual products is a matter of simple human dignity. A recent study found that 14.2% of college students who menstruate faced challenges in affording menstrual products, leading to absenteeism and academic difficulties.^{i,ii} Maryland has already taken steps to address this problem for younger students in our public school system. House Bill 457 extends Maryland's work to address period poverty issues to support higher education students.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12905-020-01149-5>

ⁱⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8432759/>

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.