



February 24, 2026

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee

BILL: HB 457 – Institutes of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives. The Foundation is pleased to **support HB 457 – Institutes of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement**. This bill would require each institute of higher education in the state to provide, free of charge, tampons or sanitary napkins in all bathrooms.

Menstrual hygiene products are basic necessities for girls and women. However, there is still a societal stigma around menstruation, and many people struggle to access them. A 2018 industry survey found that women who menstruate had to miss events or activities such as work, school or appointments over the course of a year due to a lack of access to menstrual products. More than two in five women with periods say they have struggled to purchase menstrual products at some point in their life, according to the same survey.ⁱ

Just as schools and universities provide soap and toilet paper in all bathrooms, menstrual products should be available in the same way. This promotes equity and dignity for Maryland’s women and girls. For this reason, the Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 457** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your consideration.

ⁱ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2023/10/students-quest-to-make-harvard-100-period-secure-menstrual-equity-public-bathrooms/>

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