



Support with Amendments

House Appropriations Committee
HB 457 (Feldmark)
Institutions of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the more than 56,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support with amendments regarding [HB 457 \(Feldmark\) Institutions of Higher Education – Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement](#). This bill would require institutions of higher education to provide menstrual hygiene products in all restrooms on campus. While the intent of the bill is to promote equitable access to essential hygiene products, there are significant concerns regarding its feasibility and financial impact.

MICUA institutions align with the spirit of the bill but question its application. Several institutions already offer menstrual hygiene products for free at health centers, academic buildings, student centers, or food pantries. Additionally, many institutions provide these products in public restrooms located on the main part of campus where there is frequent traffic and use. Expanding the requirement to all bathrooms would be cost-prohibitive due to both the price of the products and the labor required to maintain all dispensers.

To expect institutions to supply products in every single restroom rather than only in public areas would create a significant financial burden. For example, a MICUA institution may have over 50 buildings, including residence halls with multiple apartments, each with one or two bathrooms. Imposing a requirement for every restroom would be not only costly, but also logistically challenging, especially considering limited facilities staffing during weekends or evenings. The need to purchase and install appropriate dispensers in numerous restrooms would add to the financial strain.

This broad mandate overlooks the operational realities of campus facilities and the substantial expenses involved. **MICUA proposes a more narrowed approach by requiring menstrual hygiene products in public restrooms which would balance access with sustainability, ensuring students in need are supported without placing undue financial pressure on institutions.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of our institutions regarding House Bill 457. If you have any questions, please contact Irnande Altama, Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.