



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Chair Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 457 - SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Barnes,

On behalf of the Alliance for Period Supplies, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 457, sponsored by Delegate Jessica Feldmark, which aims to increase access to menstrual products in higher education by requiring each educational institutions in Maryland to provide free menstrual products in all bathrooms.

The Alliance for Period Supplies is a nonprofit organization comprised of over 140 independent community-based organizations across the U.S. that collect, warehouse, and distribute period products to those in need. In Maryland, 2 of our allied members are hard at work to end period poverty for the two in five people who struggle to purchase period supplies due to lack of income.

The provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation in daily life. According to *The State of the Period 2021*, [one in four](#) students who menstruate experience period poverty, and [four in five teens](#) either missed class or knew a classmate who missed class time due to a lack of access to menstrual products. Research also shows that 86% of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 34% have needed to leave what they were doing to retrieve period products. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources, which can be particularly burdensome to youth, low-income people, unhoused people, and other vulnerable populations.

In addition to resource costs, a lack of access to menstrual products can also cause serious health issues, including emotional duress, physical infection, and disease. Inadequate menstrual support is also associated with other health and psycho-social issues, particularly among low-income people.

By providing menstrual products at public colleges and universities, Maryland can help to ensure its students have equal access to education and are empowered to reach their full potential. Research shows that students lacking access to period products experience higher rates of absence and are less able to focus and engage in the classroom. Significantly, after New York City passed a law providing free menstrual products to students, participating schools saw a [2.4% increase in](#)

[attendance](#). Passing HB457 is a critical step toward removing barriers to equity for all Maryland students, especially those who have struggled to access menstrual products due to gender or income.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. The Alliance for Period Supplies stands ready to support and collaborate with you in any way possible to ensure the successful passage and implementation of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Ariana Smith
Manager of Legislative Policy
Alliance for Period Supplies