
Committee:	Energy, Educations, and the Environment Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 457 Institutions of Higher Education - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement
Hearing Date:	March 25, 2026
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 457 Institutions of Higher Education - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement*. This bill as amended requires Maryland colleges and universities, with on-campus housing, to provide free menstrual hygiene products to students by ensuring they are available in campus student health centers.

Maryland has taken meaningful steps to ensure that students in K–12 public schools have access to free menstrual products. But period poverty does not end at high school graduation. College students, whom may be financially independent, working multiple jobs, or supporting families, continue to face barriers to accessing menstrual products. These barriers often have impacts on academic participation, student well-being, and educational equity.

National [data](#) show that period poverty is a serious barrier for college students, with 14.2% unable to afford menstrual products at least once in the past year and 10% experiencing this every month. The burden falls disproportionately on Black, Latina, first-generation, and low-income students; groups that are strongly represented across Maryland’s universities and community colleges.

Menstrual products are as essential as toilet paper and soap. Ensuring access is a matter of dignity, equity, and student success. By passing HB457, Maryland will support students’ ability to fully participate in their education and continue the state’s leadership in menstrual equity.

For these reasons, Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for a favorable report on HB 457. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.