

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee and Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

As a committed intern of the Young Women's Giving Circle of Howard County, and a senior attending Guilford Park High School, preparing to attend Hollins University, I am writing to express my unrelenting support for HB0457, a necessary piece of legislation that aligns heavily with the mission of the YWGC and will strengthen access to free menstrual hygiene products in the health centers within locations of higher education across Maryland.

The Young Women's Giving Circle of Howard County is a community of philanthropists working tirelessly to address and advocate for the needs of young women and girls throughout Howard County with the vision that women's philanthropy shapes the future for women and girls through the power of collective giving. In 2024 alone, we gave \$1.2 million from over 1,700 donors to support our efforts and, throughout our over 22 year commitment to the community of Howard County, we have given over 300 grants to nonprofit organizations and have a \$1.1 million endowment dedicated to making money in perpetuity to fund programs for benefits towards the young women and girls we work so tirelessly to assist and fight for. We plan on continuing this work for many, many more years to come and plan to continue to fight for the necessary legislation to support and combat period poverty in Howard County.

It is through the hard work of I and the other Young Women's Giving Circle interns that Del. Pamela Lanman Guzzone recognized the ongoing issues with legislation passed in 2021 requiring school systems to install dispensers of free period products, such as tampons, pads, and

sanitary napkins in restrooms in K-12 school systems. However, this is not the case with buildings of higher education, such as public colleges with houses on campus. Del. Guzzone's bill, with Senator Hettleman's crossfire, clarifies the expectation of all school systems in Howard County, whether of secondary or primary education; fill the dispensers in the restrooms and health centers.

This bill aligns heavily with the core values of the Young Women's Giving Circle, especially that of how the needs and concerns of all women and girls in Howard County must be fully understood, acknowledged, and addressed, and that available resources should be directed to achieving systematic change in the political, social, and economic institutions that influence the lives of women and girls. Enacting this measure would not only directly benefit students and staff members of higher education buildings with easy access to free menstrual health products, but it contributes further to a stronger, more inclusive Howard County, one that is open to accounting for all their citizens and will meet the health requirements of all that call Howard County home, regardless of gender orientation or bodily functions.

We hope you will support HB0457 and we deeply appreciate your leadership in advancing legislation that reflects the needs of our community. Your work is the gateway to a colossal wake of action and reflection for necessities met in communities when all come together and it is a beautiful sight to see.

Thank you for your service and your ongoing support and commitment to ensuring Howard County remains one of the most inclusive, compassionate, and forward-thinking

communities in the state of Maryland. A special thank you to Delegate Guzzone for her advocacy in this space and to Delegate Jessica Feldmark for her sharing to the senate of this bill in particular, as well as their combined support for the missions of the Young Women's Giving Circle. We cannot express our gratitude enough.

All the best,

Bella Nelson

YWGC Intern