

February 25th, 2026

Chair Feldman

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Hello, my name is Emmanuela Afolabi, and I am a Student at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. I am 15 years old, and cherish advocating for justice. I support Senate Bill 307 – Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement. The reason I support this bill is because it is essential to ensure students are provided with adequate medical products at schools.

We support this bill because many students experience situations at school where they suddenly get their period and do not have access to a menstrual product. One time in school, I asked my teacher to go to the bathroom during class and I found out I had my period and didn't have a pad. Luckily one of my friends was inside of the bathroom at the same time I was, and gave me a pad. For the rest of my day, I wore a jacket on my hips because I bled through my pants. When this happens, students can feel embarrassed, stressed, and distracted from learning, even though it is a normal and natural situation. Having menstrual hygiene products easily available at school would help students feel safer and more supported during the school day. This bill would make a real difference by ensuring students can focus on their education instead of worrying about a basic need.

Providing these materials will lessen the anxiety many young women feel when asking for hygiene products, ensuring a more dignified school experience. This bill is needed now because many students are forced to leave class and miss important instructional time just to locate basic necessities. While some teachers do have products in their classrooms, no lesson should potentially be interrupted just to ask for these essentials. I strongly urge you all to vote yes on Senate Bill 307. Thank you to the committee for your time and for addressing these concerns.

Thank you for your time,
Emmanuela Afolabi