

# **SB 307 - Poverty Free MD - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Abby Snyder, Co-Chair

Position: FAV



### Voting Member Agencies:

Anne Arundel County Food Bank

Baltimore Jewish Council

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Family League of Baltimore

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
Inc.

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

**Poverty Free Maryland**

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## SB 307

### Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 27, 2026

### FAVORABLE

Senate Bill 307 requires County Boards of Education to regularly restock menstrual hygiene products in their dispensers in women's restrooms in public schools.

In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 205 mandating menstrual hygiene product dispensers be placed in every public school women's bathroom. At the time, the intent of the bill was the installation of the dispensers as well as the stockage of menstrual products at no cost to students in elementary, middle, and high schools. Menstrual products are a vital resource, and the equitable availability of these products to menstruating students is imperative. However, access to these products can be a substantial challenge for families living at or near poverty. Hygiene products are not among the most donated products to food banks and assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC do not allow for their purchase. The effort of HB 205 was to ensure that these basic hygiene needs are covered in trusted and regular locations like schools, and ameliorate situations where families have to make difficult choices on which necessities to purchase.

Since enactment of HB 205, examples of only one-time filling of these dispensers has occurred all over the state. While technically within the confines of the law, this was not the intent of the original bill language. SB 307 corrects this unintended loophole.

Poverty Free Maryland strongly supports the ability of every Marylander to live with dignity and without the constraints and effects of poverty. We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 703.

*Founded in 2025 through the merger of Welfare Advocates (established in 1979) and Marylanders Against Poverty (established in 1988), **Poverty Free Maryland** is a coalition of service providers, faith groups, and other organizations working together to exchange information, educate decisionmakers, and advocate for statewide public policies and programs necessary to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty and ensure that low-income Marylanders are provided with low- and no-barrier access to all resources needed to thrive and build a better life for the future.*

# **Testimony In Support of SB0307 - Bridget Zwarich.p**

Uploaded by: Bridget Zwarich

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB307

TO: Chair Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the  
Committees

FROM: Bridget Zwarich, Intern of the Young Women's Giving Circle (YWGC)

DATE: February 24, 2026

RE: Support for SB307 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products -  
Requirement

Dear Chair Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the  
Committees,

Good afternoon senators, my name is Bridget Zwarich, an intern representing the Young Women's Giving Circle (YWGC), and am in favor of the SB307 bill, ensuring menstrual hygiene products will be restocked in public schools. The Young Women's Giving Circle organization was established by the Women's Giving Circle which was founded just short of 25 years ago, with the noble goal of addressing underfunding of programs for women and girls, and to support the needs of those women and young women.

Before I was a member of the YWGC, I was a young woman who had been raised in this county. Beginning middle school, I remember being so worried about handling my period during the school day, or even worse, to get my period during school and not be able to do anything about it; however my Mom reassured me of the dispensers installed in schools, providing me with what I would need. However now, as an 11th grader, and having experienced years and years of menstruating during the school day, I can confidently report that I have not been able to take advantage of these dispensers when I have needed them. This has not been because the

dispensers aren't there, but because they are consistently empty, and therefore, ineffectual. These dispensers will not be able to ease any other young woman's mind, or be of aid if they are not followed through on being restocked.

One of the first assignments we had as interns was to audit our school bathroom dispensers across our schools and share a form to audit middle schools and such. Our data reveals on average, 26% (across 10 high schools) of the school's menstrual product dispensers were stocked. Though not quantifiable, a moving aspect of auditing was hearing so many other young women tell me to not even try to use the dispenser, that it's "never been stocked", when I went and tried to use the dispenser.

Restocking the menstrual products does not need to take much more effort than the attention given to the bathrooms each day, restocking the toilet paper, soap, and paper towels. Just like each of those, period products are not a luxury, they are a basic necessity, and should be given the same undeniable attention and priority. In order to break the cycle of product inaccessibility, custodial staff should replenish the menstrual product dispensers, if not each, every other day. This restocking will get the over 14,000 girls and young women enrolled in middle and high schools in Howard County the basic resources they need to get through each day. For these reasons, the Young Women's Giving Circle urges the committee to support the SB307 bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bridget Zwarich,

First-Year Internship Holder

The Young Women's Giving Circle

wgexecutivedirector@wgchowardcounty.org

**\_Senate Bill 307 Testimony .pdf**

Uploaded by: Caitlyne Lopez

Position: FAV

February 27th, 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 Caitlyne Lopez, and I am a Student at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. I support Senate Bill 307 – Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement. The reason I support this bill is that 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. Especially at this time, menstrual products are expensive, making it hard for students from low-income families to deal with their menstruation. 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,  
Caitlyne Lopez

**SB 307.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cassie Hewett

Position: FAV



**BILL NUMBER:** SB 307

**TITLE:** Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**HEARING DATE:** February 25, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable

Reproductive Justice Maryland Action supports Senate Bill 307 in keeping with our mission to champion reproductive justice as a fundamental human right for all Marylanders. We believe that everyone deserves the ability to manage their reproductive health with dignity, safety, and autonomy, free from stigma and unnecessary barriers. This includes ensuring that students who menstruate have reliable access to menstrual hygiene products during the school day.

Menstrual hygiene products are essential health items, yet many students experience period product insecurity, defined as the inability to access or afford menstrual products when needed.<sup>1</sup> Peer-reviewed research demonstrates that period product insecurity among adolescents is

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<sup>1</sup> E11. (2019, October 31). *Period poverty*. American Medical Women’s Association. <https://amwa-doc.org/period-poverty/>

widespread and has direct educational consequences.<sup>2</sup> A 2021 study of high school students in St. Louis found that 64% of students reported period product insecurity, and over two-thirds reported missing school because of a period-related problem.<sup>2</sup> When students miss class time or are unable to focus due to unmet basic needs, their academic performance, attendance, and overall well-being suffer.

Maryland has already taken an important step by requiring menstrual hygiene product dispensers in certain public school restrooms.<sup>3</sup> However, the presence of a dispenser alone does not guarantee access. Without a clear requirement to ensure that these dispensers are regularly restocked, students may still find themselves without products at critical moments. Senate Bill 307 addresses this implementation gap by requiring county boards of education to ensure that menstrual hygiene product dispensers are consistently stocked and available to students at no cost.

The need for this legislation is further underscored by evidence linking menstrual product insecurity to negative mental health outcomes.<sup>4,5</sup> Studies have shown associations between lack

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<sup>2</sup> Sebert Kuhlmann, A., Teni, M. T., Key, R., & Billingsley, C. (2021). Period product insecurity, school absenteeism, and use of school resources to obtain period products among high school students in St. Louis, Missouri. *The Journal of School Nursing*, 40(3), 329–335. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10598405211069601>

<sup>3</sup> Delegate Reznik. (n.d.). *HOUSE BILL 205*. HOUSE BILL 205 F1, J1 (1lr0722) ENROLLED BILL . <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0205e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Ssesanga, T., Thomas, K. A., Nelson, K. A., Oenen, E., Kansime, C., Lagony, S., Enomut, J. R., Mayanja, Y., & Weiss, H. A. (2024). Understanding menstrual factors associated with poor mental health among female secondary school students in Uganda: A cross-sectional analysis. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-024-00829-6>

<sup>5</sup> Rohatgi, A., & Dash, S. (2023). Period poverty and mental health of menstruators during COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons and implications for the future. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgwh.2023.1128169>

of access to menstrual products and increased stress, shame, and depressive symptoms, particularly among individuals already facing economic hardship.<sup>6</sup> Ensuring reliable access to menstrual products in schools is a preventive public health measure that supports both physical and mental health during a critical developmental period. By promoting consistent school attendance and academic engagement, reliable access to menstrual products also supports educational attainment, which is strongly associated with higher lifetime earnings, workforce participation, and overall economic productivity.<sup>7</sup> Investing in menstrual equity in schools is therefore not only a public health intervention, but also a sound economic policy decision for Maryland's future workforce.

Importantly, access to menstrual products is both an equity and a gender equity issue. Girls and other students who menstruate, including transgender and nonbinary youth, may miss class or experience stigma when products are unavailable. Students from low-income households, students experiencing housing instability, and students whose families are facing economic disruptions are disproportionately affected by period product insecurity. Research also shows that communities of color experience higher rates of economic hardship and material insecurity, compounding disparities in access to essential health items. Schools serve as a primary point of stability and support for many young people, and ensuring consistent access to menstrual

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<sup>6</sup> Schmitt, M. L., Dimond, K., Maroko, A. R., Phillips-Howard, P. A., Gruer, C., Berry, A., Nash, D., Kochhar, S., & Sommer, M. (2023). "I stretch them out as long as possible:" U.S. women's experiences of menstrual product insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. *BMC Women's Health*, 23(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-023-02333-z>

<sup>7</sup> *Social Security Administration*. The United States Social Security Administration. (n.d.). [https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/research-summaries/education-earnings.html?utm\\_](https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/research-summaries/education-earnings.html?utm_)

hygiene products helps reduce gender- and race-based disparities while promoting educational equity and student dignity.

Senate Bill 307 represents a practical, low-cost, and evidence-based policy solution. By clarifying responsibility for restocking menstrual hygiene product dispensers, the bill ensures that existing access requirements function as intended and that students are not forced to miss class time or seek assistance simply to meet a basic health need.

For these reasons, Reproductive Justice Maryland Action strongly supports Senate Bill 307 and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report.

# **Daniel%20Shi%20-%20Testimony.pdf.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel Shi

Position: FAV

February 27th, 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 Daniel Shi, and I am a Student at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. 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. 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,  
Daniel Shi

# Senate bill 307.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominique McRae

Position: FAV

February 27th, 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 [Dominique McRae], and I am a [Student] at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. 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, 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,  
[Dominique McRae]

# **Emmaline Andersen- Testimony SB307.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emmaline Andersen

Position: FAV

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 Emmaline Andersen, and I am a student at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. 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, it was around the time of my period and I was worried because I had forgotten a product in case I got it. I had to ask a friend for one instead of feeling comfortable knowing if worse came to worst there were products in the bathrooms. 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,  
Emmaline Andersen

# **Emmanuela Afolabi - Period Product Bill Testimony.**

Uploaded by: Emmanuela Afolabi

Position: FAV

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

**SB 0307 - SUPPORT - WDC Feb 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Finn

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
**WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**Senate Bill 0307/HB0541: Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**

**Education, Energy and the Environment Committee - February 27, 2026  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

**WDC urges the passage of Senate Bill 0307/HB0541: Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement.** This bill requires each middle school and high school in Maryland to keep already required menstrual supplies machines in women's bathrooms re-stocked as needed. These supplies are to be provided free of charge to students.

The WDC Children and Youth Advocacy Subcommittee has prioritized Chronic Absenteeism as a key issue. There are many factors to consider when addressing Chronic Absenteeism. One of these is for students to be comfortable and secure in school<sup>1</sup>. If students do not have menstrual supplies readily available and they either run out of their own supplies; can't afford supplies and/or have an unexpected start to their menstrual periods, this contributes to feeling uncomfortable, embarrassed and insecure in school<sup>2</sup>. In addition, menstrual supplies are very expensive and so this helps all students, particularly those of lower economic status. In addition, research has shown that Latina and Black students often have a harder time accessing menstrual supplies. The supplies will be provided to all students regardless of race, socioeconomic status or any other diversity category.

**We ask for your support for SB0307 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

Cynthia  
Rubenstein  
WDC President

Karen Finn  
WDC Children and  
Youth Subcommittee  
Chair

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy  
Chair

<sup>1</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12117648/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://period.org/uploads/State-of-the-Period-2021.pdf>

## **FAV\_Lily P.**

Uploaded by: Lily Plessner

Position: FAV

SB 307  
Lily Pressnor  
AAAS Student

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of  
the Education, Energy, and Environment

I support and believe that there  
should be pads and tampons in the  
dispensers. As a middle school girl,  
almost everything that happens to us  
feels awkward and embarrassing.

We may not want to make  
having our period very noticeable  
or a stressful process, especially when  
it comes to pads and tampons. Also  
aren't these supplies supposed to  
make this time of the month  
easier? If us girls have to walk  
all the way to the healthroom  
with a pass then to the bathroom,  
rather than just going in and  
out of the bathroom? That would  
make it much less stressful for us  
and may make having our  
period, a much less bigger deal  
than it has to be. This would  
also take up much less class time  
by just going straight to the  
bathroom, not to the healthroom,  
then the bathroom, then finally back

FODAC  
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to class, I care very much about my academics and so do so many other students. I think it would be a shame to have to miss 10-15 minutes of class time by just having to go every which way just to use a pad or tampon. Thanks everyone for their time and I hope you consider very deeply about filling the dispensers with feminine products. I also hope that this letter has changed your perspective by getting a view and opinion from a 6th grade middle school girl.

- Lily Plessner

## **2.25 SB 307 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrua**

Uploaded by: Lonia Muckle

Position: FAV



**SB 307 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**February 27, 2026**

**SUPPORT**

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 307. This bill strengthens Maryland's existing requirement for public schools to provide menstrual products by ensuring that dispensers are restocked regularly.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

Existing law requires public schools to provide menstrual hygiene products in restrooms at no charge to students. In practice, however, many schools struggle to keep dispensers stocked on a consistent basis, meaning students may arrive on campus only to find the products they rely on are unavailable. This intermittent access diminishes the utility of the original requirement and undermines the intent to prevent educational disruption related to menstruation.

These disruptions disproportionately affect students from low-income families who do not have ready access to supplies at home and may be unable to bring their own. Consistent availability at school is therefore not merely a convenience but a necessary support to keep students engaged and present in class. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that 30% of students struggle to obtain menstrual products.<sup>1</sup> In Maryland, where many students attend Title I eligible schools and families living in poverty face ongoing financial strain, the stakes are especially high.

The legislature saw it fit to pass a law requiring schools to provide menstrual products, recognizing them as essential to students' ability to fully participate in school. However, without addressing ongoing supply challenges, this promise has too often fallen short for the students it was meant to serve. SB 307 seeks to resolve that gap by placing clear responsibility on county boards of education to ensure products are regularly restocked.

***Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 307.***

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<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics (2024). <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases-from-aap-conferences/period-poverty-research-finds-1-in-3-teens-lack-access-to-menstruation-products/>

**SB0307\_WrittenTestimony\_Favorable\_MdPHA.2.25.26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Oluwatosin Olateju

Position: FAV



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy* **Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 307**  
**Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**  
**Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**By: Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)**  
**Hearing Date: February 27, 2026**

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 307, which would require public schools to ensure consistent restocking of menstrual hygiene products. This legislation addresses a basic but critical public health and educational equity issue: ensuring that students have reliable access to essential hygiene products throughout the school day.

Access to menstrual hygiene products is not a luxury—it is a fundamental health necessity. Limited availability of menstrual products impacts as many as two-thirds of low-income women in U.S. cities and significantly contributes to school absenteeism, with up to 84% of students either missing class themselves or knowing someone who has because of it. When students can't access proper menstrual products, they often resort to unsafe alternatives such as toilet paper, rags, or other inadequate hygiene methods, which can lead to a higher risk of infection and greater emotional strain. By ensuring that existing product programs are properly maintained and restocked, this bill moves beyond symbolic access and ensures practical implementation.<sup>1,2</sup>

From a public health standpoint, period poverty is associated with psychological distress, absenteeism, and inequitable educational outcomes, disproportionately affecting students from low-income and underserved communities.<sup>3</sup> Maryland continues to invest in educational equity and student achievement; ensuring reliable product availability is a modest but impactful step toward eliminating preventable barriers to learning.

Economically, the cost of restocking products is minimal when compared to the broader social and educational costs of absenteeism and disengagement.<sup>4</sup> By supporting student attendance and dignity, SB307 represents a cost-effective investment in educational continuity and health equity. We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. (2022). Period poverty, a growing public health concern. Accessed on February 16, 2026 from <https://www.astho.org/topic/brief/period-poverty-a-growing-public-health-concern/#:~:text=Impact%20of%20Period%20Poverty,by%20the%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.>

<sup>2</sup> *Report finds “period poverty” a top reason girls miss school | K-12 Dive.* (n.d.). Retrieved February 16, 2026, from <https://www.k12dive.com/news/report-finds-period-poverty-a-top-reason-girls-miss-school/565424/>

<sup>3</sup> Njoku, A.; Al-Hassan, M.; Tohura, S.; Garcia, K. Period Poverty Among Black, Hispanic and Low-Income Communities in the United States: Challenges and Recommendations. *Hygiene* 2025, 5, 58. <https://doi.org/10.3390/hygiene5040058>

<sup>4</sup> Aka, B. G. (2025). Period poverty in the United States of America: A socio-economic policy analysis. *Journal of Global Health Economics and Policy*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.52872/001c.137889>

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The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

**Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)**  
**PO Box 7045 · 6801 Oak Hall Ln · Columbia, MD 21045-9998**  
**GetInfo@MdPHA.org [www.mdpha.org](http://www.mdpha.org) 443.475.0242**

# **Seabright - SB307 - In Favor.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paula Seabright

Position: FAV

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the committee,  
My name is Paula Seabright and I am the co-chair of the Women's Giving Circle of Howard County's grants committee. I am also the chair of the young women's giving circle intern program. Our 10 high school interns learn about philanthropy, collective giving, leadership and advocacy through supporting our organization's efforts to impact period poverty.

The MDGA passed legislation in 2021 requiring public k-12 school systems to install period product dispensers in some restrooms in their schools. As our interns explored this requirement in Howard county, they found that while the dispensers were installed, they were empty most of the time. All of my interns had a horror story about a classmate who needed a product and couldn't find it quickly. I won't go into details. If you've had a period, or know someone who has, you've heard everything I have.

Depending on which study you read, and which questions are asked anywhere from 20-40% of menstruating students report missing school because of issues related to access to period products. This puts these students at risk of falling behind in their studies. Or if they choose to go to school while using something other than a product designed for menstrual flow, they risk illness.

Of course, there are many educators in our schools who keep a supply of products for their students; products they provide at their own expense. Students can go to the health room in their school as well, and maybe they won't have to ask for a product or get scolded for taking enough to get them through the day.

The simplest way to make life easy and school less horrifying for menstruating students is to require dispensers are stocked as SB0307 lays out. A quick trip to the restroom and then back to class, instead of an epic journey through a building to search for a product like Indiana Jones pursuing the holy grail. Of course, Indy found the holy grail which makes him more successful than a kid trying to find a tampon at school. On behalf of the women's giving circle and in support of every menstruating student you know and love, I urge this committee to vote in favor of this legislation.

Thank you,  
Paula Seabright  
Columbia, MD

**2026 ACNM SB 307 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Bill:** Senate Bill 307 – Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 307 – Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement*. This legislation strengthens existing law related to menstrual hygiene products in public schools to guarantee students consistently have access to products.

This legislation addresses a gap in equity for individuals who menstruate. Maryland law currently requires the installation of menstrual hygiene product dispensers in public schools; however, there have been inconsistencies in the availability of products. A study found that 13.19% of students missed school, 15.38% of students were late to school, and 24.18% of students left school early because they needed menstrual products.<sup>i</sup> While Maryland has already passed legislation to provide these products, students have reported limited access to them.<sup>ii</sup> This bill addresses this issue by requiring these dispensers to be restocked.

ACNM members recognize how important menstrual health is, and the ability to obtain the products is vital. Most individuals who menstruate begin during their school-aged years. Ensuring product availability to support their health is critical for building healthy habits, physical and mental health, and success for the rest of their lives. This legislation supports students from all economic backgrounds, ensuring equal accessibility for all students.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> Christopher A. Cotropia, Menstruation Management in United States Schools and Implications for Attendance, Academic Performance, and Health, 6 WOMEN’S REPROD. HEALTH 289, 292 (2019) (Exhibit B).

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2026/01/20/hcpss-menstrual-product-gaps/>

**2026 MASBHC SB 307 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 507 - Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *Senate Bill 507 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement*. The legislation requires each county board of education to ensure that each public school regularly restocks dispensers in the restrooms at the school with menstrual hygiene products.

MASBHC advocates for the almost 90 school-based health centers in underserved communities across the state. According to the 2023 State of the Period Study, 1 in 4 students who menstruate struggle to afford menstrual hygiene products.<sup>1</sup> Ensuring that period products are readily available in schools promotes equity and dignity for every student, regardless of their background or financial situation.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>1</sup> State of the Period Study: 2023, <https://period.org/uploads/SOTP-2023.pdf>.

**2026 MASHN SB 307 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

**Maryland Association of School Health Nurses**



**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 307 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *Senate Bill 307 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement*. The bill requires each county board of education to ensure that each public school regularly restocks dispensers in the restrooms at the school with menstrual hygiene products.

In a 2023 national survey, nearly one in four teenagers struggled to afford period products and just under half had worn period products longer than recommended.<sup>1</sup> Students experience greater stress managing their periods at school than at home, and a lack of adequate hygiene products translates to students having trouble focusing in class or missing school entirely. By stocking menstrual hygiene products in schools, educators can create a supportive environment that fosters student well-being and academic success.

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>1</sup> State of the Period: 2023, <https://period.org/uploads/SOTP-2023.pdf>.

**SB307\_FAV\_Hettleman.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

**SHELLY HETTLEMAN**  
*Legislative District 11*  
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment

*Senate Chair*

Joint Audit and Evaluation  
Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 220  
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410-841-3131  
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[shelly.hettleman@senate.maryland.gov](mailto:shelly.hettleman@senate.maryland.gov)

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Senator Shelly Hettleman Testimony in Support of SB 307**  
**Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**

**THE PROBLEM**

When originally asked to file SB307, I initially said no. I didn't think there should need to be a bill about requiring schools to ensure that the dispensers of menstrual hygiene products be filled -- it couldn't possibly be a widespread problem. Perhaps it was only an issue in Howard County, where the House sponsor is from. And then I began my research and asked the young people I know to ask their friends in Baltimore County Public Schools whether this is a problem. And, to my surprise: it was a problem and it's a problem all over. Just last week, I met with a group of Maryland High School Democrats - mostly students from Montgomery County and a few from Baltimore County and Harford County. When I described the bill, their heads started to nod: this was an issue that they too had experienced. This is a ridiculous but necessary bill - in 2021 that this body passed a bill that required menstrual products to be shared in school bathrooms. It is an unfortunate, but a necessary reality, that we need this bill to accomplish what should have been realized in 2021.

As forementioned, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in 2021 that required menstrual product dispensers to be installed in our public middle and high schools. That was an important and meaningful step forward in addressing period poverty and advancing educational equity. However, we have learned since then is that installation alone is not enough. The original statute required that dispensers be placed in schools; it did not explicitly require that they be regularly restocked. And so, across multiple counties, not just in one district or region, students are encountering empty dispensers. When that happens, the promise of the 2021 law is undermined, and its purpose is defeated.

An empty dispenser sends the wrong message. Menstrual products are not optional. They are basic health necessities. When students cannot access them, they miss instructional time, experience unnecessary stress and embarrassment, or leave school early. That burden falls most heavily on students from low-income households, compounding disparities in attendance and academic performance that we are already working so hard to close.

## THE SOLUTION

This bill is not an expansion of the original mandate. It does not create a new program. It simply ensures that the program we already enacted works as intended. **By requiring that dispensers be regularly restocked, we close an implementation gap and make access to menstrual products reliable and real — not symbolic.** This bill has no state fiscal impact. It clarifies existing law and aligns with the legislature's original intent, without imposing new financial burdens on local governments. What it does impose is accountability.

At its core, this legislation is about dignity, health, and equal access to education. No student should have to worry about managing a normal biological process while trying to focus on algebra, history, or preparing for their future. By passing this bill, we reaffirm our commitment to equity and to ensuring that every student in Maryland has the supportive learning environment they deserve.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give SB307 a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**PPM-SB307-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tica Torres

Position: FAV

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 307 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

**Hearing Date:** February 25, 2026

**Position:** Favorable

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports Senate *Bill 307 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement*. The bill strengthens Maryland’s existing menstrual hygiene statute by adding one essential operational requirement: county boards of education must regularly restock the menstrual product dispensers already required in public school restrooms.

Under current law, schools must provide free menstrual products, install dispensers in all middle and high school restrooms, and ensure at least one dispenser in each elementary school. Planned Parenthood of Maryland’s work with students across the state reflects a clear pattern: dispensers are often empty, leaving students without access despite the state’s mandate. SB 307 closes the implementation gap by ensuring these dispensers are not merely installed but kept stocked so students can reliably access the products the law intends to provide.

Furthermore, recent local reporting, including coverage from the [Baltimore Banner](#) has highlighted ongoing challenges students face in accessing basic hygiene supplies in school settings. These disruptions have real academic consequences and disproportionately affect students from low-income families. Students experiencing period poverty routinely miss class, leave school early, or improvise unsafe alternatives. Ensuring dispensers are consistently stocked is a matter of protecting students’ dignity, health, and participation in school.

For these reasons, Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for a favorable report on Senate Bill 307. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care).

**SB 307 - SWASC - MH Products - FAV-lmk.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FAV

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 307**  
**Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**  
*Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee*  
February 27, 2026

**Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports SB 307**, which will require that county boards of education regularly restock menstrual hygiene product dispensers within public school bathrooms. Passed in 2021, SB 427 instructed all counties to provide menstrual hygiene dispensers and products in public school bathrooms free of cost to all public school students. SB 307's restocking language would **ensure consistent, equitable access to menstrual hygiene products for all students, the original intent of the 2021 legislation that's yet to be fully realized.**

**There is an increasing need for schools to provide additional support to low-income students.** Nearly 60% of Maryland students participated in free or reduced lunch programs during the 2024-2025 school year.<sup>1</sup> At the same time that families are struggling to make ends meet, menstrual hygiene products are a heavy financial burden for Maryland students. On average, the families of middle-school and high-school aged students report spending \$40 per month on menstrual products -- nearly \$500 per year.<sup>2</sup>

**Lack of access to menstrual products leads to long term academic consequences.**

Menstruation is unpredictable, with variability in cycle length and number of product changes needed. Without consistent restocks of menstrual product dispensers, students may spend valuable class time seeking products from a nurse, friend, or, in some cases at home. Four in ten teens say they have felt unable to do their best on schoolwork due to limited access to period product.<sup>3</sup> Research shows when students are absent from school, they experience grade decreases and overall poor academic outcomes.<sup>4</sup>

**As a social work coalition working in schools and with youth, we have seen firsthand the effects of period stigma on youth.** Outside of bathroom dispensers and their peers, the nurse's office frequently serves as the only place students have access to menstrual hygiene products. This association with being sick or something being wrong with the student who needs the nurse for a basic hygiene product further stigmatizes periods. Additionally, we understand age-appropriate expectations on communication skills for this age group. The average middle-school aged youth is too self-conscious or ashamed to ask an adult or peer for support if their period starts unexpectedly or if they leak through their period product and stain their pants or the school chair.

As a coalition, we advocate for continuous efforts to bolster the dignity, worth, and equity for youth within the school system. SB 307 is an opportunity to provide youth with accessible period products in every bathroom dispenser, and more importantly, an opportunity to empower youth to take care of their health and focus on the most



For more information, please contact  
Mcke Kittrell & Madeleine Bennett  
[umswasc@gmail.com](mailto:umswasc@gmail.com)

important thing they are in school for - learning.

## **Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report on SB 307.**

*Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.*

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<sup>1</sup>Maryland State Department of Education (2025). Free and Reduced-Price Meals Data SY 2024-2025 Statewide Detail by Agency

<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>Think, Inc., PERIOD (2025). *State Of Period 2025*. [Period.org](https://period.org)

<sup>4</sup>Jing Liu et al., "The Short- and Long-Run Impacts of Secondary School Absences," *Journal of Public Economics* 199 (July 2021):. *The Short and Long-run impacts of secondary school absences.*

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047272721000773>.

# **Veda Puvvala Testimony - SB0307.pdf**

Uploaded by: Veda Puvvala

Position: FAV

Good afternoon chairman Feldman, chairwoman Kagan, and distinguished members of the committee.

My name is Veda Puvvala and I am a junior from Crofton High School. While this testimony is from a personal perspective, I also currently serve as the CRASC – Chesapeake Region Association of Student Councils – Legislative Liaison.

With that in mind, I am here today to urge your support for SB0307. A bill that ensures all county boards of education in Maryland will ensure each public school regularly restocks dispensers in the women’s restrooms with menstrual hygiene products.

Personally as a female student in Crofton High School I have the privilege of not commonly seeing empty menstrual hygiene product dispensers.

However this is not the case for many students across Maryland. The Alliance for Period Supplies states that 1 in 4 teens in the U.S. miss class because they lack access to period supplies.

I have also personally heard many experiences from students in Montgomery County who have seen empty dispensers in their schools. After all, no student wants to be running around during class time searching for a menstrual hygiene product.

This bill simply reaffirms that the menstrual products that are already required to be in women’s restrooms are restocked and available regularly.

Simply put, SB0307 recognizes the value of accessible menstrual hygiene products in Maryland schools by ensuring regular restocking of dispensers.

With that said, I strongly urge a favorable report for SB0307.

# Senate Bill 307.pdf

Uploaded by: Za'Nyah Lawrence

Position: FAV

February 27th, 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 Za'Nyah Lawrence, and I am a student at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore City. I support Senate Bill 307 – Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement. The reason I support this bill is that 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, I needed a menstrual hygiene product and did not have any, and none of my friends had any, so I had to go home and miss a lot of my important classes. 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 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,

Za'Nyah Lawrence

**2026.02.23 HSMP SB307 Letter of Support (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Amanda Oppler

Position: FWA



Monday, February 23, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan  
Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP), a Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) dedicated to advancing health equity and well-being for all residents of St. Mary's County and the broader Southern Maryland region, we write to express our strong support for *Senate Bill 307 Public Schools — Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products — Requirement*. SB 307 would require each county board of education to ensure that menstrual hygiene product dispensers in public school women's restrooms are regularly restocked and available to students at no cost.

HSMP's work in menstrual equity, including coordinating community period product drives, supporting local distribution efforts, and engaging partners in education around period poverty,<sup>1</sup> has shown that lack of reliable access to menstrual products negatively affects students' health, attendance, and dignity. In rural counties like St. Mary's County, where transportation barriers and limited retail access can further restrict availability, schools often serve as one of the most reliable and equitable access points for essential menstrual supplies.

While Maryland has made important progress in menstrual equity, including requiring the installation of menstrual product dispensers in schools, access gaps remain when those dispensers are not consistently stocked. SB 307 appropriately addresses this issue by shifting the focus from installation alone to ongoing availability, ensuring that students can rely on these products when they need them most.

We also respectfully note that the original legislation<sup>2</sup> allocated \$500,000 statewide for the provision of menstrual hygiene products in fiscal year 2023, an amount that is insufficient to

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<sup>1</sup> Healthy St. Mary's Partnership. *Period Supply Drive Toolkit*. <https://healthystmarys.com/period-supply-drive-toolkit/>

<sup>2</sup> House Bill 205 (2021). <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0205E.pdf>

meet the needs of students across Maryland's public school system. When distributed across 24 local education agencies and hundreds of school buildings, this level of funding cannot sustainably support consistent restocking throughout the school year. Further, the legislation does not guarantee funding for future years. Without adequate and stable funding, school systems may be forced to ration supplies, rely on ad-hoc donations, or divert limited local resources — all of which undermine the intent of the policy.

For SB 307 to achieve its full impact, HSMP urges consideration of increased and ongoing funding for menstrual supplies so that schools can reliably meet student needs without interruption. Adequate and continuing investment will help ensure equitable implementation across counties, particularly in rural and lower-resourced communities, and will prevent disparities in access based on geography or local budget constraints.

Ensuring consistent access to menstrual products supports student attendance, reduces stress and stigma, and promotes dignity and full participation in school.<sup>3</sup> For students in St. Mary's County and throughout Maryland, this policy represents a practical and evidence-based step toward improved educational and health outcomes.

For these reasons, the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership respectfully urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 307, and to support sufficient funding to ensure its successful implementation statewide. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important health equity legislation. Please reach out to [stmaryspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspartnership@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Christine Delise*

Christine Delise  
Healthy St. Mary's Partnership  
Environmental Health Action Team Co-Chair

*Tytiana Snyder*

Tytiana Snyder  
Healthy St. Mary's Partnership  
Environmental Health Action Team Co-Chair

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<sup>3</sup> Thinx & PERIOD (2023, June 10). *State of the Period 2023*. <https://period.org/uploads/SOTP-2023.pdf>

**SB 307 Menstrual Products Restock FWA 2026 (1).pd**

Uploaded by: Jaden Farris

Position: FWA



**BILL:** SB 307 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

**DATE:** February 27, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable with Amendments

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

As the state chapter of the leading national organization centered on creating and sustaining inclusive K-12 education for LGBTQIA+ students, Glisten Maryland supports SB 307 with amendments.

As written, this bill would require public schools in Maryland to phase in a plan to restock menstrual products in women's restrooms. Developing a plan to restock these products is essential to ensuring students have access to menstrual products when they need them. A 2025 survey found that 1 in 4 students experience "period poverty" defined by not having access to menstrual products when they need them.<sup>1</sup> Period poverty makes it more likely students miss class and fall behind in school. Ensuring reliable, stigma-free access to menstrual products supports student dignity, academic success, and overall well-being.

Glisten Maryland suggests that this bill be amended to include providing menstrual products in all restrooms in addition to women's restrooms. Many students, including but not limited to transgender and nonbinary students, choose to access restrooms other than the women's restroom for a variety of reasons, including increased privacy, ease of access, and safety. Providing menstrual products free of charge in all restrooms would increase access to these products among people who need them. This would also make Maryland state law consistent with other recently passed legislation, including Utah (2002 legislation provides products in women's and unisex restrooms), New Mexico (2023 legislation provides products in at least one men's restroom), and Virginia (2020 legislation provides menstrual products in all middle and high school restrooms), among other states.

Accordingly, Glisten Maryland respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on SB 0307.

For further information, please contact Jaden Farris, [jaden@md.glsen.org](mailto:jaden@md.glsen.org)

#### **ABOUT GLISTEN:**

Glisten (previously GLSEN), the nation's largest advocate for LGBTQ+ issues in K-12 education, has been dedicated to establishing inclusive schools and learning environments for over 34 years. Amidst increasing threats against LGBTQ+ youth nationwide, Glisten actively addresses harassment and discrimination by empowering educators, advocating for policy changes, and combating book bans.

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<sup>1</sup> Thinx, Inc., & PERIOD. (2025). State of the Period 2025: The widespread impact of period poverty on U.S. students <https://period.org/uploads/2025-State-of-the-Period-Study.pdf>

**2026 SB307 NAPNAP.pdf**

Uploaded by: JD Murphy

Position: FWA



February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Maryland Senate  
Education, Energy, & The Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support with amendment of Senate Bill 307 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement.**

This important legislation will ensure that menstrual hygiene products are readily available in public schools, contributing to the health and dignity of all students who menstruate. We commend the intent of this bill, as it recognizes the necessity for accessible menstrual hygiene products in schools, which is vital for students' health, comfort, and ability to participate fully in their education. However, we would like to propose an important amendment to the language of the bill to better reflect inclusivity and the diversity of students who require these products. Specifically, we urge that the terminology be changed from "women's restrooms" to "girls" or remove gender selection completely, such as the line for elementary schools, to ensure a more inclusive approach.

Menstruation is a natural process that can occur at an early age, and ensuring access to menstrual hygiene products in elementary schools will help foster a supportive environment for all students, regardless of their age or gender identity. The average age of menarche, or the onset of menstruation, is approximately 12 years; however, research indicates that many girls may begin menstruating as early as 9 or 10 years old, particularly among certain ethnic groups. For instance, studies have shown that African American girls often experience menarche earlier than their Caucasian counterparts, with some starting as early as 8 years of age. Additionally, most of these students are under 18 therefore are girls, not women, and it is important to avoid the adultification of children. Ensuring access to menstrual hygiene products in all schools will help address the needs of younger students who may already be experiencing this natural biological process.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support with amendment of SB307 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement and requests a favorable report.**

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at [mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE  
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC  
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC,  
CCRN, CPN; Chapter President

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC,  
IBCLC; Immediate Past-President

Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,  
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect

**FWA SB307 02.25.26 K. York.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katie York

Position: FWA

IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS OF Senate Bill #307 Public Schools - Restocking  
Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

I urge you to support this bill with a key amendment that menstrual hygiene products are stocked in *all* school bathrooms- multi-stall men's and women's bathrooms as well as single stall/individual bathrooms.

Sincerely,

Katie York

Edgewood, Maryland

YorkForHarford@gmail.com

**SB307 SWA (Written).pdf**

Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk

Position: FWA



**Testimony in SUPPORT with amendment of  
Senate Bill 307: Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**Position: Favorable with Amendment**

February 27, 2026

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers support with amendment for Senate Bill 307, which if enacted, would require each county board to ensure that public schools regularly restock dispensaries with menstrual hygiene products.**

Current law requires public schools to provide menstrual hygiene products at no cost to students in all women's bathrooms. Senate Bill 307 strengthens this statute by requiring each county Board of Education require each school to regularly restock those dispensers. We strongly support this improvement. Access is meaningful and stabilizing when products are consistently available to students when they need them. However, we respectfully recommend an amendment to expand the location requirement beyond women's restrooms. Not all students who require menstruation products use women's restrooms. Limited access to women's restrooms may also unintentionally exclude transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students, as well as students that rely on gender neutral or family bathrooms.

**To ensure equitable and inclusive access, we recommend that menstrual hygiene products and regular restocking are required**

- In every restroom in the school; or at minimum
- In at least one gender neutral or family restroom in addition to the women's restrooms.

Menstrual hygiene is an essential component of health and wellbeing. When students lack access to necessary products, they miss class time, leave school early, or experience stress that interferes with learning. These disruptions undermine academic success and school engagement. Furthermore, rising costs have made menstrual hygiene products increasingly difficult for many families to afford, disproportionately impacting students from low income households. Ensuring reliable and inclusive access at school reduces this burden and advances educational equity. SB307, along with our recommended amendment language, moves Maryland closer to achieving the equitable learning environments promised in the Blueprint.

**For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB307 along with the recommended language.**

**Please contact Kenzie Funk at [kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org) for additional questions.**