



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Delegate Ken Kerr, Vice Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 03/04/2026
RE: HB941 - Public Health - Public Buildings - Hygiene Products

The MLLC supports HB941 - Public Health - Public Buildings - Hygiene Products

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB941.

The issue of period poverty affects women all around the United States, largely including low-income and homeless women.¹ Studies estimate that there are at least 42 million impoverished women in the United States, many of which feel shame as they can not care for themselves during their periods.² In Maryland in particular, Latino/Hispanic individuals have a poverty rate of around 11.4%³, while making up for only about 12.5% of the total population⁴. As a result, Latino/Hispanic individuals may be disproportionately impacted by a lack of hygiene products.

The data confirm that Latina women bear a disproportionate share of this burden. A peer-reviewed George Mason University study found that Latina women reported the highest levels of period poverty of any group surveyed, with 24.5% having experienced it in the past year, and similar patterns were also found among immigrant and first-generation students. Additionally, in another study 24% of Latino respondents reported struggling to afford period products compared to just 8% of white respondents, and nearly half of Latino students reported difficulty focusing on school due to lack of access to period products.

This bill would require public restrooms in public buildings to be adequately stocked with a supply of hygiene products, including, but not limited to, menstrual hygiene products. By requiring public restrooms to stock hygiene supplies, this bill could help assist low-income communities who may need assistance gaining access to hygiene products.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB941.

¹ [The State of Period Poverty in the U.S. • Center for Global Women's Health • Penn Nursing](#)

² Ibid

³ [Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity | KFF State Health Facts](#)

⁴ [Maryland Demographics - Map of Population by Race - Census Dots](#)