



HB 541 - Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement
House Ways & Means Committee
February 18, 2026
SUPPORT

Chair Wilkins, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 505. 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.¹ 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. HB 541 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 HB 541.

¹ 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/>