

As an intern of the Young Women's Giving Circle of Howard County (YWGC), and as a resident of Howard County, I am writing to express my strong support for HB0541, an important piece of legislation that aligns with the mission of the Women's Giving Circle (WGC) and YWGC and that would strengthen access to free menstrual hygiene products in public schools across Maryland.

Our organization has long invested in initiatives that support women, children, and families throughout Howard County. In 24 years, we have collectively made over \$1 million in grants to organizations throughout our community and with our strong endowment, we expect to continue this work for many, many years to come.

It is through the work of I and the other Young Women's Giving Circle Interns that Del. Guzzone became aware of the issues with legislation passed in 2021 requiring school systems to install period product dispensers in restrooms in K-12 schools. We completed an informal audit of the eight schools we attend and learned that dispensers were not consistently stocked in restrooms we could access during the school day. Del. Guzzone's bill, with Senator Hettleman's crossfire, clarifies the expectation to the school systems; fill the dispensers.

This bill aligns with the core values of the Women's Giving Circle. Enacting this measure would not only benefit individuals directly but also contribute to a stronger, more inclusive Howard County, as well as the needed change for our entire state.

We hope you will support HB0541 and we appreciate your leadership in advancing legislation that reflects the needs of our community.

Thank you for your service and for your ongoing commitment to ensuring Howard County remains one of the most inclusive, compassionate, and forward thinking communities in Maryland. A special thank you to Delegate Guzzone for her advocacy in this space and for their support of the WGC and YWGC. We are so grateful.

Best,
Rayna Hasan
YWGC Intern