



Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill: House Bill 541 – Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 541 – 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.ⁱ While Maryland has already passed legislation to provide these products, students have reported limited access to them.ⁱⁱ 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 or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ 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).

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