

Committee: Ways and Means Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 541 Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Position: Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 541 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. HB541 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 HB 541. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.