

Megan Pardoe

Regarding Maryland House Bill 541– Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

2/15/2026

My name is Megan Pardoe and I am a 2025 graduate from Howard High school with deep concern for period poverty in Howard County. I am testifying on the lack of stocked menstrual product dispensers in the restrooms of public high schools across the county.

Throughout high school I was an intern with the Women's Giving Circle of Howard County's Period Product Drive. During this time I saw firsthand the aggressive need of accessible menstrual products in our community. When someone does not have access to the necessary menstrual hygiene products, they can not go about their functions of daily living. Many students are forced to stay home while they are on their period due to their lack of access to these products.

I was very happy to see the addition of a few menstrual product dispensers in the bathrooms at Howard High school during the end of my time there. However, I was quickly disappointed with the lack of sufficient supplies being restocked into the dispensers. I rarely saw them with any products in them after they were initially installed.

Knowing the extreme need for free menstrual products for menstruating members of our community to be able to function at such a level that they would be able to adequately focus in school, it deeply saddens me to see the lack of action taken to solve this issue. By ensuring that each public school regularly restocks dispensers in the women's restrooms at the school with menstrual hygiene products, many students' educations, and daily lives, would greatly improve.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.