



## HB0541 Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirements

Position: Favorable

February 18, 2026

The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland’s education system, **offers favorable testimony in support of HB0541 Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirements** which establishes requirements for restocking menstrual hygiene products in public schools. As a school teacher for 15 years, i witnessed firsthand the critical need for reliable access to these essential products. Every year, i purchased sanitary napkins, tampons, feminine wipes, panties, and other essentials that menstruating girls need—not because it was required, but because i knew my students' dignity and education depended on it. When dispensers are installed but not consistently restocked, they become empty promises rather than practical solutions. This bill ensures that the commitment Maryland made to menstrual equity is followed through with the resources and accountability necessary to keep products available when students need them.

My students deeply appreciated having these products available in my classroom without cost or judgment. Girls knew there was one teacher in the building who had what they needed, and they came to me during some of their most vulnerable moments. Because i maintained a steady supply, girls did not miss school because of their periods. They stayed in class, participated in activities, and focused on their education rather than worrying about leaks, discomfort, or embarrassment. The relief and gratitude i saw on their faces when they realized they could access products discreetly and immediately reinforced how essential this support truly is. HB541 will ensure that every girl in every school has this same security—not dependent on whether a particular teacher goes above and beyond, but as a guaranteed right.

Installing dispensers was an important first step, but without consistent restocking, they serve little purpose. Students need to trust that when they go to the restroom, products will actually be there. HB541 addresses this gap by creating clear expectations and accountability for maintaining adequate supplies. This legislation recognizes that menstrual equity is not just about infrastructure—it is about follow-through, reliability, and treating menstruation as the normal biological reality it is. i urge you to support HB541 so that no student has to search the building for a trusted adult with supplies, miss class to go to the nurse's office, or worse, stay home from school entirely. Every girl deserves what my students had: immediate, judgment-free access to the products they need to stay in school and succeed.

MAREE urges a favorable report on HB0541.

peace & truth,  
sharlimar douglass  
Education Justice Advocate & Analyst  
Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE)