

My name is Audrey McKay and I am a high school junior at Howard High School. I'm writing to you today in support of House Bill 0541.

As a student at Maryland public schools, I am aware that menstrual products are supposed to be made available to students in all school restrooms due to HB205; however, this has not played out in practice. Since the bill has been passed, I cannot recall a single time the menstrual product dispensers were stocked at my school. At this point, I know of nobody who bothers to check the dispensers for pads because we all know that the dispensers will be empty. HB205 has spectacular goals, but it fails to live up to its expectations due to its inability to enforce its own policy; HB0541 will make up for this deficiency by requiring that menstrual products be regularly restocked in bathrooms. By ensuring menstrual products are actually restocked regularly, you would be ensuring that no child in school lacks access to a basic hygienic necessity when they need it most. When people lack adequate products, they reuse old ones which is highly unsanitary and can lead to severe infections or at worst death, so ensuring students have consistent access to menstrual products has the potential to save lives.

When students do not have to worry about access to basic hygienic necessities, we are able to focus more on the things that matter at school, so I request that the Ways and Means committee accept HB0541 to allow students to focus on school and not have to worry about access to hygienic necessities.

Thank you for your continued support of this bill.