

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Sakshi Tirodkar, and I am a current senior at Long Reach High School in the Howard County Public School System. I am writing today on behalf of the Young Women's Giving Circle of Howard County to express my strong support for the passage of HB0541, an essential piece of legislation that provides girls in public school systems with necessary access to restocked menstrual hygiene products dispensers.

As a fierce women's advocate, I have been more than grateful to see the installation of menstrual product dispensers all across the public middle and high schools of Howard County over the past few years. However, as of the Young Women's Giving Circle's recent period product audits, we have come to the conclusion that most schools are consistently failing to restock these dispensers, defeating the original intent of their implementation.

As a student myself, it is extremely frustrating for us to find ourselves in a situation when we are caught off guard in dire need of a product and are unable to locate such resources in the midst of a busy school day. Students come to school to learn, and when such health issues get in the way of our learning, that is when we know that the system is failing us.

This bill would strongly amend the situation, ensuring that counties can support the confidence and success of their female students. The women of Maryland may only reach their highest potential when they are steadily provided with the resources needed to meet their basic health and hygiene needs.

I hope that you will consider supporting this bill, tackling menstrual needs within Maryland's public school systems and providing care to the young women of the future. We truly thank you for your tireless work and effort in supporting us as citizens. The young women of Howard County are eternally grateful for your commitment to serving our community.

Sincerely,

Sakshi Tirodkar

Young Women's Giving Circle of Howard County