



December 11, 2023

Montgomery County – Bill 42-23 – Menstrual Products in Public Restrooms – Required

Dear County Council:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland opposes this bill and respectfully urges the Council to adopt amendments that would align this legislation with a [recent law](#) enacted by the District of Columbia. As of February 23, 2023, the District of Columbia mandates the provision of free period products in government-operated spaces, including but not limited to libraries, public schools, health departments, fire stations, and police stations.¹

As demonstrated by the District of Columbia, this issue can be adequately addressed through the utilization of government-operated facilities, instead of imposing another mandate on businesses. Restaurants are ill-equipped to furnish and maintain the volume of menstrual products that individuals require. Such a mandate would be a significant cost burden for our industry which operates on razor thin profit margins (typically 3-5% pre-tax). Many restaurants continue to struggle with rising food and labor costs, pandemic related debt, and less overall customer volume than pre-pandemic.

According to an article sponsored by Harvard Health, individuals who menstruate utilize around 20 menstrual products per cycle.² The goals of this legislation would be better met by government facilities that could provide a box of menstrual products. This approach would ensure that the needs of those requiring menstrual products are adequately met in a manner that is both sensible and more appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and suggested alternative approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan J. Mahoney".

Brendan J. Mahoney
Government Affairs &
Local Grassroots Manager

¹ <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B24-0653>

² <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/how-to-choose-period-products-202210052828>