



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER

December 7, 2023

The Honorable Andrew Friedson
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Bill 42-23 Health and Sanitation--Menstrual Products in Public Restrooms

Dear President Friedson:

The Montgomery County Commission for Women (Commission) is writing to support Bill 42-23 Health and Sanitation--Menstrual Products in Public Restrooms, but with a few caveats. The Commission was established under law in 1972. The mandate of the Commission is to advise the County Executive, the County Council, the public, and agencies of the county, state and federal governments on issues concerning women in Montgomery County. (Montgomery County Code Sec. 27 – 29). Providing feedback on this bill is a part of meeting our mandate.

The Commission had robust conversations around the bill and supports it in concept and would like to see provisions for exemptions and/or limited fines and/or penalties proportionate the size of the business. The Commission has concerns that the smaller businesses may not have access to the same resources that large corporations may have to meet the mandate of the bill, resulting in potential closure of the business and employee layoff. Many of the small businesses are either owned, operated, and/or employ significant female populations.

Unfortunately, no one from the Commission can testify at the hearing on December 11. If anyone has any further questions, please contact Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director, at Jodi.Finkelstein@montgomerycountymd.gov or (240) 447-1934.

Thank you for your service and your support of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arlinda J. Clark".

Arlinda J. Clark, Esq., Chair
Commission for Women
Montgomery County

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