



Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County
10400 Connecticut Ave. Suite 308
Kensington, MD 20895

December 11, 2023

Montgomery County Councilmembers
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Bill 42-23, Menstrual Products Access and Equity Act

Dear Councilmembers:

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County (HCCMC) opposes Bill 42-23, the Menstrual Products Access and Equity Act, as currently drafted. We believe that alternative proposals can better address the important issue of providing free menstrual products while minimizing unintended consequences.

The HCCMC supports the amendment proposed by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, and Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. This amendment suggests limiting the bill's scope to County-owned buildings, such as libraries, recreation centers, and regional service centers. This targeted approach ensures a more focused impact and alleviates concerns related to small and minority-owned businesses.

The State of Maryland already mandates that all middle and high schools provide menstrual products in their restrooms, and it further reduces the costs of these products by exempting them from the State sales and use tax.

The HCCMC is particularly concerned about the direct impact this bill may have on small and minority-owned businesses in the County. These businesses often face unique challenges, including limited resources to guard against indiscriminate removal of menstrual products, resulting in higher operational costs.

We look forward to further dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Ortiz Larsen'.

Carmen Ortiz Larsen
President

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County