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TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Susan C. Lee

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 13, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 598 – *Correctional Services – Inmates – Menstrual Hygiene Products*

We submit this letter on behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), in **support** of Senate Bill 598.

Senate Bill 598 requires correctional facilities to provide menstrual hygiene products at no cost to inmates on admission to the facility, on a routine base, and upon request and have a policy for the proper disposal of the hygiene products. MedChi and MDACOG understand that correctional facilities are currently providing menstrual products to inmates at no cost which appropriately recognizes the health protections associated with female hygiene products and the need to preserve the basic human dignity of all women, including those who are incarcerated. Passage of this legislation would codify current policy which will ensure the provision of the products cannot be limited in the future. Further, the record keeping requirements ensure accountability of the facilities and the adoption of policies related to proper disposal protects the health and well-being of not only the female inmates but also correctional facility staff. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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