

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1157

TITLE: Resolution Requesting the Free Provision of Menstrual Health Products in Dormitories and Academic Buildings

AUTHOR(S): Senator Simone Liang, Senator Chalisa Budhai

SPONSOR(S): Senator Meagan Lamey, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Zoe Richter, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Vivienne Serrett, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti

WHEREAS, the American Medical Women’s Association defines period poverty as “the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and educations, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the 16.9 million women living in poverty in the United States cannot afford menstrual products, and over half are forced to choose between purchasing menstrual products and food [2]; and,

WHEREAS, 14.2% of people menstruating in college experience period poverty at least once a year, and 10% of college students experience period poverty every month [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly exacerbated period poverty in the US due to the low accessibility and unaffordability of products [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact was particularly distressful for low-income groups, leaving people to improvise with materials or wear products for longer than recommended [4]; and,

WHEREAS, according to the American Medical Association, the prolonged use of menstrual products, such as pads, tampons, or menstrual cups, as well as the dependency on makeshift sanitation products, drastically increases reproductive health risks that may be life-threatening, including urinary tract infections and toxic shock syndrome [5]; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2023, twelve states and the District of Columbia provide free menstrual products in public schools, twenty-four states and the District of Columbia provide free menstrual products in correctional facilities, and three states provide free menstrual products in homeless shelters [6]; and,

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 students in the US miss school when menstruating due to a lack of access to period products [7]; and,

WHEREAS, students and administrative staff on college campuses have noted instances of students reporting their non-preparedness for periods and how that hampered them from attending classes [8]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the harmful effect period poverty places on reproductive health and academic performance, particularly for low-income individuals.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to provide free menstrual health products, including pads and tampons, that are accessible to students in all restrooms across campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the free and consistent provision of menstrual products in all dormitories and academic buildings on UF's campus through coordination between UF Housing, the Inter-Residence Hall Association, UF Student Healthcare Center, and the Division of Student Life.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Dr. Ben Sasse, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, UF Student Health Care Interim Director Jocelyn Gravlee, UF Housing Senior Director Tina Kuhlengel Horvath, and Inter-Residence Hall Association President Kara Sammetinger.

[1] <https://www.amwa-doc.org/period-poverty/>

[2] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9941660/#:~:text=It%20is%20estimated%20that%2016.9,%2C%20tampons%2C%20and%20menstrual%20products.>

[3] <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/period-poverty>

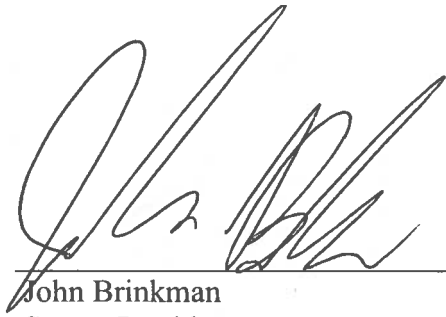
[4] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10372806/>

[5] <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/why-stigma-prevents-treating-menstrual-hygiene-essential>

[6] <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-actions-to-increase-access-to-menstrual-products>

[7] <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/always-gina-rodriguez-end-period-poverty/>

[8] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10318639/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024
Date