

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1383

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Menstrual Product Dispensers on the Ground Floor Women’s Bathroom at the College of Health and Human Performance

AUTHOR(S): Senator Megan McGuire

SPONSORS: Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

WHEREAS, On a national level, period poverty, or a lack of access to menstrual products and education, affects one in 10 college students in the United States, and poor menstrual hygiene also poses health risks for women, including reproductive issues and urinary tract infections [1]; and,

WHEREAS, It is unlikely that all female college students have the financial abilities to pay for menstrual products throughout their collegiate career; and,

WHEREAS, Buildings surrounding the College of Health and Human Performance offer menstrual products for students on the ground floor of their buildings. Period products can be found at the following UF buildings: Anderson, Matherly, Heavener, Little Hall, Fine Arts C, Rinker, Turlington, Computer Science Engineering, Pugh Hall, McCarty Hall, Weimer Hall, and Public Health & Health Professions. The Florida Gym is home to the College of Health and Human Performance with just under 3,000 students enrolled, but has no menstrual products available for students [2]; and,

WHEREAS, The proposal requesting a women’s program of intercollegiate athletics was approved by the Faculty Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Florida in 1972. The effective date for the proposal was set for the 1972-73 school year, thus leaving no reason for menstrual product dispensers in the bathrooms of the Florida Gym [3]; and,

WHEREAS, The Florida Gym opened in 1949 as a 7,000-seat multi-purpose arena that was home to the Florida Gators men’s basketball team. The facility currently houses departmental and dean’s offices, research laboratories, two full-length basketball courts, six 100-plus seat lecture halls, classrooms, reading rooms, and faculty locker rooms. The building is also home to the College of Health and Human Performance . The facility was once meant for only male athletes, but has been converted to an academic building for both male and female students since the time it has been constructed [4]; and,

WHEREAS, This sentiment is additionally supported by the Florida Senate through Senate Bill HB389 which states “Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools; Authorizing school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available, at no charge, in schools within the district and at certain locations within such schools; specifying requirements for the menstrual hygiene products and the dispensers of such products; requiring participating schools to notify students of the availability and locations of such products; encouraging school districts to partner with specified organizations to supply and maintain such menstrual hygiene products, etc.”

Through this bill the Florida Senate supports the availability of menstrual products through dispensers in the bathrooms of Florida Public Schools [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for easy accessibility to menstrual products for all students; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the history of a building is not necessarily indicative of how it should be managed in the present. Although the Florida Gym was constructed in 1949, where the athletic department was all-male, there are now students of all genders that utilize this building. There is a need for menstrual product dispensers within; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for a menstrual product dispenser on the ground floor women's bathroom of the College of Health and Human Performance located in the Florida Gym.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to College of Health and Human Performance Dean Dr. Michael Reid, College of Health and Human Performance Associate Dean of Research Dr. James Cauraugh, College of Health and Human Performance Associate Dean of Faculty and Staff Affairs Dr. Elisabeth Barton, College of Health and Human Performance Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Christopher Janelle, Academic Advisor for Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the College of Health and Human Performance Ms. Kari Maples

[1] https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/story/10-college-students-experience-period-poverty-us-report-75721828?cid=social_fb_abcn

[2] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/education/campus/2024/02/12/free-menstrual-products-period-packs-at-uf/72525079007/>

[3] <https://floridagators.com/news/2022/6/19/general-50-year-anniversary-of-florida-womens-athletics#:~:text=The%20effective%20date%20for%20the.University%20of%20Florida%20women's%20athletics.>

[4] <https://hhp.ufl.edu/about/facilities/>

[5] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/389>