Central Connecticut State University
UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 21.22.007R

TO: President Zulma Toro

FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached resolution of the University Senate, dealing with: Support for HB 5272 (An act concerning menstrual products), is presented to you for your consideration.

2. This resolution was adopted by the University Senate on 05/02/2022.

3. After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.

4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.

   a) By 06/03/2022, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).

   b) By 06/17/2022, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

   05/02/2022
   Date

   Frederic Lafour, President, University Senate

ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate

FROM: President Zulma Toro

   1. Motion Approved: □

   2. Motion Disapproved: □ (Explanatory statement must be appended).

   3. Action "is deferred": □

   4. Resolution Noted: □

   5. Other: □

   6/8/2022
   Date

   President Zulma Toro
Resolution: The CCSU Faculty Senate endorses this SGA resolution.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Student Government Association

1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut 06053

27 April 2022

Whereas, the CCSU Student Government Association and the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center advocate for HB5272: An Act Concerning Menstrual Products. This specific HB not only affects the university but our community as well. (5)

Whereas, Medical News Today defines period poverty refers to the social, economic, political, and cultural barriers to menstrual products, education, and sanitation. (1)

Whereas, period supplies are a necessity, not a luxury.

Whereas, nationally, 1 out of 5 women miss work, school, and similar activities due to lack of period product accessibility. (2)

Whereas, statistics indicate, in Connecticut Specifically, 1 in 8 women and girls between 12 and 44 live below the federal poverty line. (2)

Whereas, in the State of Connecticut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Snap) Benefits do not allow for purchase of menstrual products. (3)

Whereas, Central Connecticut State University serves approximately 5,600 menstruating persons. The aforementioned 1 out of 5 statistic this would indicate that more than 1,000 menstruating persons are affected by menstrual poverty and lack of access to necessary products. (4)

Whereas, Central Connecticut State University strives to ensure equity for all students and overall support to students’ well-being. Specifically, they do this through financial aid, free open educational resources, mental health support, the Circle of Care, and Maria’s Place.

Whereas, initiatives in support of on-campus menstrual equity are being conducted by the CCSU Student Government Association and the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Central Connecticut States University Student Government Association and the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center is in full support of HB5272 as it will provide essential needed support to our menstruating students.
Sources of Data:
2. Alliance for Period Supplies – Data collated 2019- CT/ National Statistics (Enclosure 2)
4. HB5272 Tracking data: https://legiscan.com/CT/bill/HB05272/2022 (Enclosure 1)
AN ACT CONCERNING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 18-69e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Correctional staff at York Correctional Institution shall, upon request, provide an inmate with menstrual products as soon as practicable. Correctional staff shall provide such menstrual products for free, in quantity that is appropriate to the health care needs of the inmate and in a manner that does not stigmatize any inmate seeking such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public Health under section 6 of this act. To carry out the provisions of this section, the Department of Correction may (1) accept donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit or community-based organization. For purposes of this section, "menstrual products" means tampons and sanitary napkins.
Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) On and after July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of education shall provide free menstrual products, as defined in section 18-69e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in restrooms that are accessible to students in each middle school and high school under the jurisdiction of such boards and in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public Health under section 6 of this act. To carry out the provisions of this section, the local and regional boards of education may (1) accept donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit or community-based organization.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) Each public institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-173 of the general statutes, shall provide free menstrual products, as defined in section 18-69e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in no fewer than one designated and accessible central location on each campus of the institution and in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Department of Public Health under section 6 of this act. Each public institution of higher education shall post notice of such location on its Internet web site. To carry out the provisions of this section, each public institution of higher education may (1) accept donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit or community-based organization.

Sec. 4. Section 8-359a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):

(a) The Commissioner of Housing may, upon application of any public or private organization or agency, make grants, within available appropriations, to develop and maintain programs for homeless individuals including programs for emergency shelter services, transitional housing services, on-site social services for available permanent housing and for the prevention of homelessness.
(b) Each shelter receiving a grant pursuant to this section (1) shall provide decent, safe and sanitary shelter for residents of the shelter, including, but not limited to, through the provision of free menstrual products, as defined in section 18-69e, as amended by this act, in each restroom of such shelter that is accessible to its residents and in a manner that does not stigmatize any resident seeking such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public Health under section 6 of this act; (2) shall not suspend or expel a resident without good cause; (3) shall, in the case of a resident who is listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained pursuant to chapter 969, provide verification of such person's residence at the shelter to a law enforcement officer upon the request of such officer; and (4) shall provide a grievance procedure by which residents can obtain review of grievances, including grievances concerning suspension or expulsion from the shelter. No shelter serving homeless families may admit a person who is listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained pursuant to chapter 969. The Commissioner of Housing shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, establishing (A) minimum standards for shelter grievance procedures and rules concerning the suspension and expulsion of shelter residents, and (B) standards for the review and approval of the operating policies of shelters receiving a grant under this section. Shelter operating policies shall establish a procedure for the release of information concerning a resident who is listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained pursuant to chapter 969 to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this subsection. To carry out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, each shelter may (i) accept donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such products, and (ii) partner with a nonprofit or community-based organization.

Sec. 5. Subdivision (122) of section 12-412 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(122) Sales of [feminine hygiene] menstrual products.
Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective from passage) On or before July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Public Health shall establish guidelines regarding the manner in which menstrual products may be provided pursuant to section 18-69e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, sections 2 and 3 of this act and section 8-359a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, without stigmatizing the person who requests such products. The commissioner shall post such guidelines on the Department of Public Health's Internet web site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
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<th>18-69e</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
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<td>New section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 3</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>New section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 4</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>8-359a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 5</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>12-412(122)</td>
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<td>Sec. 6</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>New section</td>
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Statement of Purpose:
To require the provision of free menstrual products in various settings.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]
Connecticut
STATE FACT SHEET ON PERIOD POVERTY

In Connecticut, 1 in 8 women and girls between the age of 12 and 44 lives below the Federal Poverty Line.

Period Supplies Help Students Stay in School

1 in 4 teens in the US has missed class due to lack of access to period supplies. In Connecticut, 40% of female students in public school grades 7 to 12 attend Title I Eligible schools.

Period Supplies Are Necessities, Not Luxuries

Sales taxes on period supplies place an unequal burden on individuals who menstruate. 30 states tax period supplies. In Connecticut, period supplies are not taxed.

Connecticut Menstruators Need Period Supplies

735,006 women and girls between the ages 12 to 44 live in Connecticut. Of those, 1 in 8 lives below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

91,231 women and girls between the ages 12 to 44 live below 100% of the FPL. Almost 60% of families living in poverty experience financial distress and struggle to keep up with their bills and cover unexpected expenses.

206,200 women between the ages 19 to 64 are covered by Medicaid. While Medicaid provides financial protection for healthcare needs, individuals still struggle to access the material basic necessities they require to thrive.

11,468 women participate in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. Participants of the WIC program receive nutritious food. However, those living below 185% FPL face challenges meeting other material basic necessities.

Connecticut has 1 Allied Program * distributing period supplies. The Alliance for Period Supplies is working to end period poverty by providing menstruators with worry-free days.**

* 2019 Figures
** Number of days Allied Programs provided menstruators with the recommended daily supply of period products in 2019.

Alliance for Period Supplies raises national awareness of period poverty and supports the development and expansion of period supply programs in communities throughout the country. allianceforperiodsupplies.org

@periodsupplies | info@allianceforperiodsupplies.org
United States
NATIONAL FACT SHEET ON PERIOD POVERTY

1 in 4 Women Struggles to Purchase Period Products Due to a Lack of Income.

Alliance for Period Supplies works throughout the US to ensure that individuals in need have access to the essential period products they require to participate fully in daily life. Our Allied Programs nationwide collect, warehouse and distribute menstrual products in local communities.

Women Living in Poverty
Women are 38% more likely to live in poverty than men. In some communities of color, as many as 21% are living in poverty.

Women Missing Work & School
1 in 5 low-income women report missing work, school or similar commitments due to lack of access to period supplies.

Distributing Donated Product
Allied Programs distributed 7.2 million+ pads and tampons & 2 million+ liners in 2019.

Improving Lives
Period supplies from Allied Program provided 1.8 million+ worry-free days & 2 million+ confident days in 2019.

70 Million
women and girls between the ages 12 to 44 live in the United States. Of those, 1 in 6 lives below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

12 Million
women and girls between the ages 12 to 44 live below 100% of the FPL. Almost 60% of families living in poverty experience financial distress and struggle to keep up with their bills and cover unexpected expenses.

16.6 Million
women between the ages 19 to 64 are covered by Medicaid. While Medicaid provides financial protection for healthcare needs, individuals still struggle to access the material basic necessities they require to thrive.

1.8 Million
women participate in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. Participants of the WIC program receive nutritious food. However, those living below 185% FPL face challenges meeting other material basic necessities.

80+ Allied Programs Distribute 9.2 Million+ Period Supplies Annually and Serve 48,000+ Women and Girls Monthly

Alliance for Period Supplies raises national awareness of period poverty and supports the development and expansion of period supply programs in communities throughout the country. allianceforperiodsupplies.org

@periodsupplies | info@allianceforperiodsupplies.org