



# CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

## Student Government Association

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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:

1. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/period-poverty>
2. Alliance for Period Supplies – Data collated 2019- CT/ National Statistics (Enclosure 2)
3. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>
4. HB5272 Tracking data: <https://legiscan.com/CT/bill/HB05272/2022> (Enclosure 1)



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 5272***

LCO No. 1295



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.***

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

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 Section 18-69e of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

3 Correctional staff at York Correctional Institution shall, upon request,  
4 provide an inmate at the institution with [feminine hygiene] menstrual  
5 products as soon as practicable. Correctional staff shall provide such  
6 [feminine hygiene] menstrual products for free, [and] in a quantity that  
7 is appropriate to the health care needs of the inmate and in a manner  
8 that does not stigmatize any inmate seeking such products, pursuant to  
9 guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public Health under  
10 section 6 of this act. To carry out the provisions of this section, the  
11 Department of Correction may (1) accept donations of menstrual  
12 products and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such  
13 products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit or community-based  
14 organization. For purposes of this section, ["feminine hygiene  
15 products"] "menstrual products" means tampons and sanitary napkins.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after July 1, 2022, each  
 17 local and regional board of education shall provide free menstrual  
 18 products, as defined in section 18-69e of the general statutes, as  
 19 amended by this act, in restrooms that are accessible to students in each  
 20 middle school and high school under the jurisdiction of such boards and  
 21 in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking such products,  
 22 pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public  
 23 Health under section 6 of this act. To carry out the provisions of this  
 24 section, the local and regional boards of education may (1) accept  
 25 donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the  
 26 purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit  
 27 or community-based organization.

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

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

43 (a) The Commissioner of Housing may, upon application of any  
 44 public or private organization or agency, make grants, within available  
 45 appropriations, to develop and maintain programs for homeless  
 46 individuals including programs for emergency shelter services,  
 47 transitional housing services, on-site social services for available  
 48 permanent housing and for the prevention of homelessness.

49 (b) Each shelter receiving a grant pursuant to this section (1) shall  
 50 provide decent, safe and sanitary shelter for residents of the shelter,  
 51 including, but not limited to, through the provision of free menstrual  
 52 products, as defined in section 18-69e, as amended by this act, in each  
 53 restroom of such shelter that is accessible to its residents and in a  
 54 manner that does not stigmatize any resident seeking such products,  
 55 pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner of Public  
 56 Health under section 6 of this act; (2) shall not suspend or expel a  
 57 resident without good cause; (3) shall, in the case of a resident who is  
 58 listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained pursuant to chapter  
 59 969, provide verification of such person's residence at the shelter to a  
 60 law enforcement officer upon the request of such officer; and (4) shall  
 61 provide a grievance procedure by which residents can obtain review of  
 62 grievances, including grievances concerning suspension or expulsion  
 63 from the shelter. No shelter serving homeless families may admit a  
 64 person who is listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained  
 65 pursuant to chapter 969. The Commissioner of Housing shall adopt  
 66 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
 67 establishing (A) minimum standards for shelter grievance procedures  
 68 and rules concerning the suspension and expulsion of shelter residents,  
 69 and (B) standards for the review and approval of the operating policies  
 70 of shelters receiving a grant under this section. Shelter operating policies  
 71 shall establish a procedure for the release of information concerning a  
 72 resident who is listed on the registry of sexual offenders maintained  
 73 pursuant to chapter 969 to a law enforcement officer in accordance with  
 74 this subsection. To carry out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
 75 subsection, each shelter may (i) accept donations of menstrual products  
 76 and grants from any source for the purpose of purchasing such  
 77 products, and (ii) partner with a nonprofit or community-based  
 78 organization.

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

82 (122) Sales of [feminine hygiene] menstrual products.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	18-69e
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	8-359a
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	12-412(122)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***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<sup>\*</sup>** distributing period supplies.

The Alliance for Period Supplies is working to end period poverty by providing menstruators with worry-free days.<sup>\*\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> 2019 Figures

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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](https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org)



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# 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.

#### Distributing Donated Product

Allied Programs distributed **7.2 million+** pads and tampons & **2 million+** liners in 2019.

#### Women Missing Work & School

**1 in 5** low-income women reports missing work, school or similar commitments due to lack of access to period supplies.

#### 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](http://allianceforperiodsupplies.org)



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