



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 106
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

March 24, 2021

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, along with Councilmembers Brianne K. Nadeau, Elissa Silverman, Mary M. Cheh, Anita Bonds, Christina Henderson, Janeese Lewis George, and Vincent C. Gray, I am introducing the “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2021.” Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation.

Many students continue to face obstacles in accessing period products, which is a basic healthcare need for over half of our residents. Current menstrual health education standards are extremely limited and only begin in grade 9, leaving students unprepared and uninformed during the beginning of puberty.

During Council Period 23, I introduced with Councilmember Grosso Bill 23-0887, the “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2020”. A public hearing was held on Bill 23-0887 on November 24, 2020. This bill is a revised and expanded version of Bill 23-0887.

The “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2021” would:

- Require local education agencies and private schools to provide free period products in all women’s and gender-neutral bathrooms in middle and high schools, and in at least one women’s and gender-neutral bathroom in elementary schools. If a school does not have a gender-neutral bathroom, the school would be required to provide free period products in at least one men’s bathroom.
- Require OSSE to develop a poster with medically accurate information on the safe use and disposal of period products, which schools would be required to post near the period products dispenser.
- Require UDC and private post-secondary institutions to provide free period products in all female and gender-neutral bathrooms.
- Require OSSE to develop and implement comprehensive health education standards on menstruation designed for all students in DCPS and DCPCS schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of gender.

Should you have any questions about this legislation, please contact my Legislative Director, Barry Weise, at bweise@dccouncil.us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BE PINTO", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Brooke Pinto

Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

BE R

Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Anita Bonds

Councilmember Anita Bonds

Christina Henderson

Councilmember Christina Henderson

Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

4

5 To require District of Columbia local education agencies, private schools, the University of the
6 District of Columbia, private universities and colleges, and vocational schools to install
7 and maintain dispensers or similar receptacles of free-for-use period products in women’s
8 and gender-neutral bathrooms and to require the Office of the State Superintendent of
9 Education to develop and implement health education standards on menstrual education
10 designed for all students in District of Columbia Public Schools and District of Columbia
11 Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of gender.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
13 act may be cited as the “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2021”.

14 Sec. 2. Definitions.

15 (a) “Local education agency” or “LEA” means the District of Columbia Public Schools
16 (“DCPS”) system, an individual public charter school, or a group of public charter schools

17 operating under a single charter.

18 (b) “Period products” means a tampon, a sanitary pad, or liner.

19 Sec. 3. Provision of period products.

20 (a)(1) Local education agencies and private schools shall install at least one dispenser or
21 similar receptacle of period products in:

22 (A) Each women’s and gender-neutral bathroom in every middle school
23 and high school; and

24 (B) One women’s and gender-neutral bathroom in every elementary
25 school.

26 (2) If a school building does not have a gender-neutral bathroom, then the
27 products shall also be available in at least one men’s bathroom.

28 (3) LEAs and private schools shall stock every dispenser or similar receptacle
29 with sufficient period products to serve the needs of LEA and private school students throughout
30 the academic year and any period of summer programming offered on its campus.

31 (b) The University of the District of Columbia (“UDC”), private universities and
32 colleges, and vocational schools shall:

33 (1) Install at least one dispenser or similar receptacle for period products in every
34 women’s and gender-neutral bathroom.

35 (2) Stock every dispenser or similar receptacle with sufficient period products to
36 serve the needs of students at all times throughout the calendar year.

37 (c) Period products shall be free of cost.

38 (d) In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Health, the Office of the
39 State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall develop an 8.5” x 11” sign that includes

40 medically accurate information on the safe use and disposal of menstrual products. The sign shall
41 be:

42 (1) Placed near each dispenser or similar receptacle.

43 (2) Made available for downloading in PDF format on the OSSE website.

44 (e) Each LEA, private school, the UDC, private college and university, and vocational
45 school shall install the dispensers or similar receptacles required by this act within one year of
46 the effective date of this act.

47 Sec. 4. Education on menstruation.

48 (a) In consultation with the State Board of Education, OSSE shall develop and
49 implement health education standards on menstrual education designed for all students in DCPS
50 and District of Columbia Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of gender.

51 (1) The overarching vision of the health education standards shall be to ensure
52 that students in the District of Columbia schools shall have the information, support, and
53 enabling school environment for managing menstruation with dignity, safety, and comfort.

54 (2) The health education standards shall include information on the menstrual
55 cycle, premenstrual syndrome and pain management, menstrual hygiene management, menstrual
56 disorders, menstrual irregularities, menopause, and other relevant topics relating to the menstrual
57 cycle.

58 (b) OSSE shall implement the health education standards within one year of the effective
59 date of this act.

60 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

61 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
62 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

63 approved October 16, 2006 (12 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

64 Sec. 6. Effective date.

65 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
66 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
67 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
68 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
69 Columbia Register.