

A RESOLUTION

24-356

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 4, 2022

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to require District of Columbia local education agencies, private schools, the University of the District of Columbia, private universities and colleges, and vocational schools to install and maintain dispensers or similar receptacles of free-for-use period products in women's and gender-neutral bathrooms, and to require the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to develop and implement health education standards on menstrual education designed for all students, regardless of gender, in District of Columbia Public Schools and District of Columbia Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022".

Sec. 2. (a) A national study found that one in 5 teens struggle to afford period products, or are not able to purchase them at all. Another study found that 80% of young girls in secondary school report that they have missed school or know someone who has missed school due to not having the necessary period products. One in 10 college students were unable to afford menstrual products in the past year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and those who experience period poverty on a monthly basis are more likely to experience moderate to severe depression.

(b) A lack of access to period products also impacts women's physical health, particularly women of color and women with lower incomes. One study found that Black women who do not have access to period products are at higher risk of developing physical disorders, such as endometriosis, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome.

(c) Period equity impacts women and trans men's mental and physical health, school attendance, and educational success. Period products should be provided to menstruating students just as toilet paper is provided to the entire student population.

(d) The Council fully funded the permanent legislation, the Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2022, passed on first reading on December 21, 2021 (Engrossed version of Bill 24-158), in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in anticipation of the bill's passage.

(e) This emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that, in addition to the significant learning loss already caused by remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic, students have

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the period products they need so that no further learning loss occurs due to a lack of these critical products.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.