

1 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

2
3 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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5 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to require District
6 of Columbia local education agencies, private schools, the University of the District of
7 Columbia, private universities and colleges, and vocational schools to install and
8 maintain dispensers or similar receptacles of free-for-use period products in women’s and
9 gender-neutral bathrooms, and to require the Office of the State Superintendent of
10 Education to develop and implement health education standards on menstrual education
11 designed for all students in District of Columbia Public Schools and District of Columbia
12 Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of gender.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
14 resolution may be cited as the “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency
15 Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

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

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

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

29 (d) The Council fully funded the underlying bill in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in
30 anticipation of the bill’s passage.

31 (e) This emergency legislation is necessary to ensure students have the period products
32 they need so that no further learning loss occurs due to a lack of these critical products, in
33 addition to the significant learning loss already caused by remote learning during the coronavirus
34 pandemic.

35 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
36 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
37 Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency Act of 2021 be adopted after a single
38 reading.

39 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.