



University Assembly

Resolution 2: Supporting Universal Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products

Abstract: Advocating for campus-wide installation of free menstrual product dispensers to advance health equity, academic success, and Title IX parity with peer institutions.

Sponsored by: Christian Tarala '27, Chair of the Campus Welfare Committee

Reviewed by: University Assembly Campus Welfare Committee, []/[]/2025

Whereas, menstrual equity is a public health imperative, and 23% of U.S. college students struggle to afford menstrual products, leading to missed classes and health risks;

Whereas, Cornell lags behind peer institutions:

- [Harvard University](#) installed 817 dispensers across campus by 2023, offering organic, chemical-free products after a student-led campaign demonstrated 97% student support.
- [Yale University](#) expanded free products to all 14 residential buildings in 2019 after a pilot showed 74% student demand.
- [Princeton University](#) has provided products in all bathrooms since 2019, including men's restrooms despite initial opposition.
- [MIT](#) saved 470,976 disposable products through its 2021 menstrual cup program while piloting dispensers in academic buildings.
- [Stanford University](#)'s ASSU initiative (2017–2019) stocked gender-neutral and male bathrooms with organic cotton tampons, funded by student government.

Whereas, the lack of accessible menstrual products disproportionately impacts low-income students, LGBTQ+ individuals, and international students, exacerbating existing inequities;

Whereas, Title IX's prohibition of sex-based discrimination extends to unequal access to facilities necessary for educational participation, as affirmed by [Maryland's SB 427](#) and similar state laws;

Whereas, peer institutions like [Boston College](#), [Purdue University](#), and Harvard University have successfully implemented free product programs, with many reporting improved academic engagement and student satisfaction;

Whereas, Cornell University's current provision of menstrual products is limited to select locations (e.g., Gender Equity Resource Center), failing to meet campus-wide needs;



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32 **Whereas**, the costs of the project are estimated to be as follows, based on [similar projects](#):
33 \$10,000–\$25,000 for 50 dispensers, with annual restocking costs of about \$5,000–\$10,000 and
34 5–10 hours/week of labor by facilities staff.

35 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Campus Welfare Committee calls for the adoption of:

- 36 1. A phased implementation plan mirroring [Harvard's 3-year rollout](#), beginning with a pilot
37 program in high-traffic locations including libraries, student centers, and academic
38 buildings by Fall 2025, prioritizing retrofitting existing dispensers or installing new units
39 in women's and gender-inclusive bathrooms with full residential coverage by 2026;
- 40 2. Diverse offerings of [brand-name products](#), including tampons, pads, and pantyliners in all
41 dispensers, respecting cultural and physiological needs;
- 42 3. Sustainable funding through a combination of:
 - 43 ● Annual allocations from the [Cornell Health/Office of Student Services] budget;
 - 44 ● Partnerships with various alumni donors and menstrual equity organizations and
45 companies (e.g., Period Equity, Ms. Foundation, Aunt Flow) which may help
46 reduce product and labor costs;
- 47 4. A monitoring group comprising students (including representatives from organizations
48 like the Gender Equity Resource Center, LGBTQ+ Advocacy Network), administrators,
49 and facilities staff to evaluate usage data, restock efficiency, and product quality once per
50 semester; [Cornell Bleeds Red?]
- 51 5. Awareness initiatives co-developed with Cornell Health to destigmatize menstruation,
52 including workshops and an easily-accessible digital map of dispenser locations.

53 **Be it finally resolved**, the Campus Welfare Committee urges the University Assembly to endorse
54 this resolution and collaborate with the Office of the President, Division of Financial Planning,
55 and Facilities Management to set these measures in motion by Fall 2026.

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57 Respectfully Submitted,

58 Christian Tarala '27

59 *Chair, Campus Welfare Committee of the University Assembly*