



THE ARGUMENT FOR FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AT CORNELL

Presented by:

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&

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AGENDA

1. The Importance of Free Period Products
2. Benefits to Cornell
3. History of the Initiative: Pilot and Year One
4. Hopes for the Future
5. Action Items & Next Steps

Why Free Period Products?

"I remember not being able to buy pads because our family only had enough to buy milk or to fill up the car tank. Sometimes, I would rely on toilet paper which wasn't sufficient, so I would leak through my pants during school, and then miss class time trying to clean the stain."

- Francis Rojina, Columbia University MPH

Why Free Period Products*?

- not all menstruators are women and not all women menstruate
- limited access to period products and period hygiene education
- structural inequity in what is provided at no cost in restrooms (added burden)

What are the benefits to Cornell?

- Reduced barriers for economically marginalized students, faculty, staff, and visitors
- A step closer to Any Person, Any Study regardless of identities held
- A chance to align ourselves with other members of the Ivy League community

History of “Free the Tampon”

- Spring 2017 Pilot - collaboration between GJAC/WRC, the Student Assembly and Facilities
- Launched in Fall of 2020 (\$30K) with funding from SA Infrastructure Committee and support of GJAC and Facilities & Building Care
- 2nd round purchase (\$32K) in Apr 2021 includes liners

Hopes for the Future

- Free Period Products
 - Continue to be available in all restrooms in academic buildings
 - Expand to residential and administrative buildings
- Funding moves from undergraduate student activity fee by securing a sustainable funding source
- Garner support from all campus constituencies

Action Items & Next Steps

- Create a working group comprised of members from all campus constituencies
- Secure another round of short-term funding
- Develop and implement a campaign to further educate the community on the importance of period equity with the aim of decreasing the stigma associated with periods.

Questions & Feedback

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THANKS!

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