



# FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

A BRIEF HISTORY  
FROM 2016-TODAY

# 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. Your Insights and Questions

# Why Free Period Products?

## Addressing Period Poverty, Equity, Gender Justice\*

I don't get to choose to have my period. And this means that I must access the necessary products and services to manage through my menstrual cycles. But access does not transcend equally nor equitably across different levels of income, counties, ages, gender, and race. 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

# What are the benefits to Cornell?

- Reduced barriers for economically marginalized Grad and Undergrad students,
- A step closer to Any Person, Any Study regardless of identities held
- A chance to be among the leaders on this issue in the Ivy League\*

# History of “Free the Tampon” I

- 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
- 2nd round purchase (\$32K) in Apr 2021 includes liners

# History of “Free the Tampon” II: Funding

- Spring 2017 Pilot - pilot was funded by GJAC (4K)
- Fall 2020 Launch - funded by SA Infrastructure Committee as a way to get things going, though there is agreement that it shouldn't come from student activity fee.
  - Supplemental funding by GJAC Fall 2021

# Hopes for the Future I

- Free Menstrual Products
  - Continue to be available in all restrooms in academic buildings
  - Expand to residential and administrative buildings
  - Funding moves from student activity fee
  - Ongoing funding source is created

# Hopes for the Future II

- Funding for an additional comparable round of purchasing donated by GJAC
- Establish permanent funding in one of these ways:
  - Through collaboration with The Assemblies (not aligned with equity-minded approach)
  - By soliciting a \$2M endowment

\*we know there are many demands on funds



# What we've Learned

- Menstruation is not a gendered term
  - In the process of purchasing new signage
  - Sent to facilities partners and waiting for printing
- Products used equally across campus

# Your Questions & Insights

- Questions?
- Feasibility?
- Steps for creating, submitting a potentially successful proposal?



# THANKS!

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