



## UCSA Resolution Regarding Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products in the UC

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**WHEREAS**, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) is the officially recognized voice of over 280,000 students in the University of California (UC) system<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, UCSA's ACQUIRE Campaign "was founded based on the reality that academic success depends on the availability of holistic resources and protections. Some of these resources and protections may include, but are not limited to... mental and physical health services... and support for basic needs."<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, similar to toilet paper and soap, pads and tampons are basic hygiene and wellness necessities that should be freely provided on all college campuses; and,

**WHEREAS**, one in five American girls aged 16-24 years old have either left school early or missed school entirely because they did not have access to period products<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, "one in five students have struggled to afford period products or were not able to purchase them at all"<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, when menstrual products "are not provided in school bathrooms, it can create significant educational barriers to students with periods. Students who lack access to products during the school day risk infection (Toxic Shock Syndrome) and widely report panic, shame, and stress that detract from their studies."<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, a significant portion of UC, CSU, and CC students already face struggles with food insecurity, homelessness, and barriers to accessing mental health counseling<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, "One in four community college students experienced homelessness in recent years. 42 percent of CSU students lacked reliable access to affordable food, and 11 percent were homeless in the past year. In 2016, 5 percent of UC undergraduates were homeless while attending school, and nearly half of undergrads were food insecure. Housing is the biggest expense for UC students living off campus."<sup>7</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uc-system>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ucsa.org/activities/campaigns/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.pg.com/press-release/pg-corporate-announcements/nearly-1-5-american-girls-have-missed-school-due-lack-perio>

<sup>4</sup> [https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0795/1599/files/State-of-the-Period-white-paper\\_Thinx\\_PERIOD.pdf](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0795/1599/files/State-of-the-Period-white-paper_Thinx_PERIOD.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/live/news/1485-moving-from-period-poverty-to-period-positivity>

<sup>6</sup>

[https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy\\_phaseII\\_withAccessibilityComments.pdf](https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phaseII_withAccessibilityComments.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article215360060.html>



**WHEREAS**, barriers to accessing menstrual products on college campuses is an urgent healthcare issue that puts an undue financial burden onto UC, CSU, CC students. This added expense to students' cost of living and tuition can impede full academic, extracurricular, and personal engagement; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, Assembly Bill (AB) 10 (Garcia) made progress by mandating schools with grades 6-12 and over a 40% student poverty threshold to provide free period products<sup>8</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, on college campuses, student government organizations are leading the way in facilitating free access to menstrual products<sup>9</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, students at UC campuses including UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, and UC Riverside have led movements on their respective campuses to provide free menstrual products in their bathrooms through student government initiatives, volunteer efforts, grant funding, and PERIOD chapters; and,

**WHEREAS**, students at CSU campuses including Sacramento State, Chico State, San Francisco State, San Jose State, Cal State Monterey Bay, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State University, CSU Bakersfield, and CSU Long Beach, have led movements on their respective campuses to provide free menstrual products in their bathrooms through student government initiatives, volunteer efforts, and grant funding; and,

**WHEREAS**, on April 18th, 2020 at the California State Student Association's April Plenary Conference, the Board of Directors and the Social Justice and Equity Committee took action and voted in support of Free the Period California's CSSA Resolution Regarding Menstrual Hygiene Products in the CSU; and,

**WHEREAS**, providing free menstrual products in campus restrooms is effective and could reduce institutional costs. The University of Iowa projected saving \$30k in operations & maintenance costs after making coin-op sanitary napkin dispensers dispense for free<sup>10</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, "a UC Davis pilot program tracked the daily usage of products and found no issues of students "freeloading" excessive quantities"<sup>11</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, these movements desire to be inclusive of all people who menstruate regardless, of gender identity, and to be in support of our LGBTQIA+ community<sup>12</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, "Menstrual healthcare is a basic right for everyone who menstruates, including trans, non-binary, and intersex students. Trans students also represent a population that often faces great financial barriers to proper healthcare – they account for an estimated 20-40% of the houseless youth population in the US, and are 2 times as likely to be in poverty compared to the general population"<sup>13</sup>; and,

<sup>8</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB10](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB10)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.acui.org/resources/bulletin/bulletin-detail/2019/05/09/period-poverty>

<sup>10</sup> <https://dailyiowan.com/2015/08/28/ui-saves-nearly-30000-on-tampons/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://freetheperiodca.org/about>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.thedp.com/article/2019/02/tampons-pads-menstrual-products-period-yale-columbia-bathroom-free-accessibility>

<sup>13</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g3rd\\_5lyQT\\_fdzxydXJf5fPUSNMP-2NtPN3xPapqOKA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g3rd_5lyQT_fdzxydXJf5fPUSNMP-2NtPN3xPapqOKA/edit)



**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the official platform<sup>14</sup> of the UC Student Association shall be updated to represent the values expressed in this resolution; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, UCSA urges all 10 UC campuses (including UCSF) to provide free menstrual products in their female, male, and gender inclusive bathrooms, beginning with high-traffic areas of campus; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, UCSA urges the UC Chancellor's Office and the UC Board of Regents to consider the purchase of menstrual products as a part of custodial support in the budget; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, UCSA supports Free the Period CA in their efforts to ensure free access to menstrual hygiene products in all California public universities<sup>15</sup>; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, UCSA works in coalition with the California State Student Association (CSSA) and Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) to ensure state-wide support for all public colleges to advocate for and protect menstrual equity initiatives on campus; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the UC President, Janet Napolitano; the University of California Board of Regents; the UC Council of Presidents; the CSU Chancellor, Timothy P. White; CSU Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, Loren Blanchard; the CSU Board of Trustees; the CSU Statewide Academic Senate; the CSU Alumni Council; Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (URGE) CA State Organizers, Kavleen Singh, Sonja Goetsch-Avila, and Jessy Rosales; The Women's Foundation of California Program Manager, Libby Benedict; Advancing New Standards In Reproductive Healthcare (ANSIRH); Bixby Research Center, Dr. Carole Joffe; the *California Aggie* newspaper; California State Students Association (CSSA) President, Michael Wiaffe; Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) President, Danny Thirakul; the Associated Students UC Davis (ASUCD) Senate.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Q3aR320Os1xSizP1R6dlFZkBDGiF15swdWYYh6yxtM/edit>

<sup>15</sup> <https://freetheperiodca.org/>