



Partnering for Period Equity

*SSCCC Women's Caucus
August 24th, 2020*

Presentation by Audin Leung

#FreeThePeriodCA is a grassroots student campaign & coalition fighting to end period poverty, or the lack of access to menstrual healthcare, in California schools.

National Period Day 2019,
#FreeThePeriodCA
petition launch

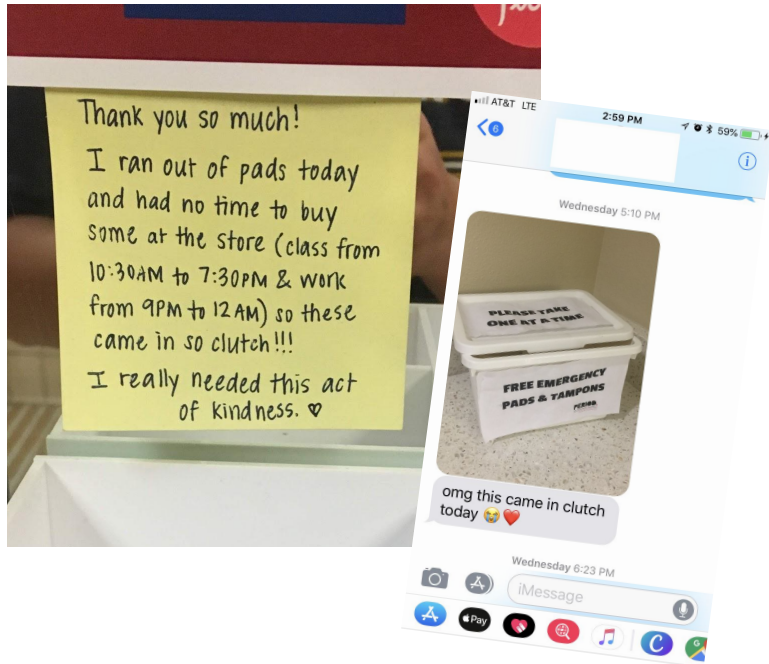


Menstruation is a basic biological function, yet...

- 1 in 4 students miss school due to lack of access
- 1 in 5 students struggle to afford products
- 43% of menstruators have been period-shamed
- 1 in 10 said the shaming occurred in the classroom

What can we do?

1. Period products must be provided in public bathrooms, just like toilet paper.



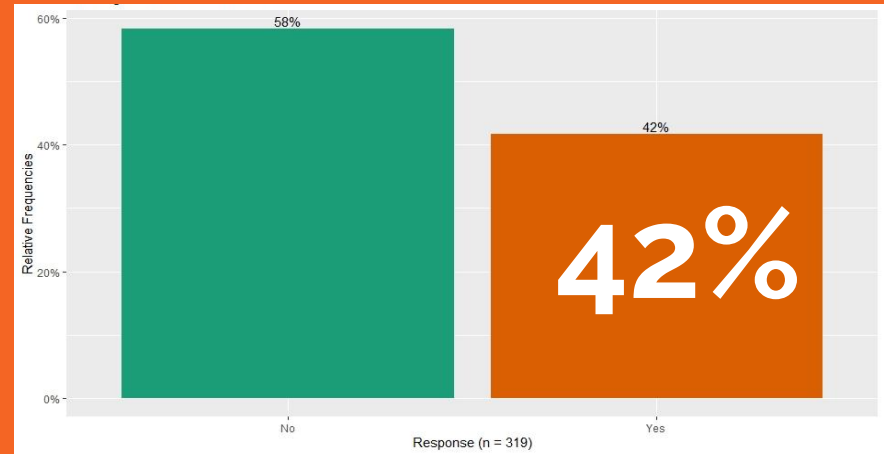
"I ended up getting my period three days earlier than usual, but I had used a different bag so I had no supplies with me. I cleaned up as much as I could but then I saw the free supplies and I was so thankful because **I would have had to walk around campus trying to find tampons while not having anything in the moment.**"

"Free tampons in the bathroom by the south coho literally saved me today. I consider myself a prepared person when it comes to my period but **I didn't have a tampon today and was bleeding and didn't have my wallet on me to buy some. I would have had to go home if there weren't any tampons in the bathroom.**"

"I was on my way to class by bus. I realized I needed to buy emergency menstrual products at the campus store before class, so I **ran there and had to wait in a long line to purchase the items. I became late to my class and could not find a seat, therefore had to sit on the ground.**"

2. Period products must be provided in student pantries and resource centers that serve students' basic needs.

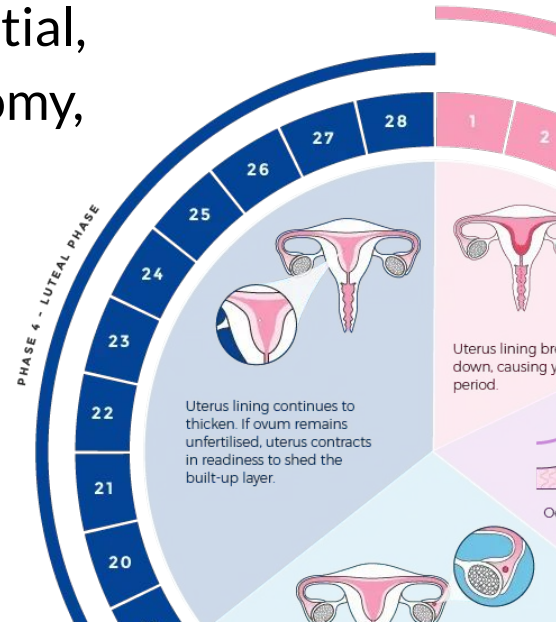
**Pantry Menstrual Product Requests
May-June 2020**



Also...



3. Increasing access to reusable menstrual products cuts costs & saves the environment
4. Menstrual Health Education programs are essential, e.g. Knowledge about product ingredients, anatomy, the menstrual cycle, period stigma, more





~~\$26.61~~ \$4.79

~~\$42.95~~ \$8.59



~~\$9.98~~ \$3.59

~~\$6.45~~ \$3.29

5. Periods don't stop
for pandemics.

How do we get there?



From student advocacy...





...To institutionalization

AB 2003, as introduced, Cristina Garcia. Community college: restrooms: feminine hygiene products.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and requires the governing board of every community college district to manage and control school property within its district.

This bill would require a community college to stock 50% of the school's restrooms with feminine hygiene products, as defined. The bill would prohibit a community college from charging for any menstrual products, including feminine hygiene products, provided to students. Because this bill would impose new duties on community college districts, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Fall 2016 A.02.03.04-3: Personal Hygiene Product Dispensers

Author: Omar Aceves

Sponsor: Southwestern College

Resolution Disposition:

Whereas: California Community College students must have availability to access a personal hygiene product dispensing machine all around campus to prevent personal embarrassment and discomfort.

Whereas: California Community College Students require access to personal hygiene products in bathrooms during school hours in case of a medical emergency or personal attention issue.



Calling on Region V to #FreeThePeriod!

- Survey current status on campuses
- COVID-19 Relief & Basic Needs Provision
- Advocacy
 - Campus based, district wide, statewide
 - Advocacy Toolkit
- Join Free the Period!

Questions or comments?

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