

2023 -- S 1063

LC002695

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING "PERIOD POVERTY AWARENESS WEEK" ON MAY 22-28, 2023, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Cano, Lauria, Valverde, Mack, Lawson, DiMario, Ujifusa, Gu, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: May 23, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The United Nations has recognized access to menstrual hygiene and care as  
2 a global public health priority and human rights issue; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2019, Rhode Island passed legislation eliminating the tax on period  
4 supplies, a step in the right direction, however, there continues to exist negative financial, social,  
5 educational, and medical ramifications for many women and girls, particularly those living in  
6 poverty; and

7 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, one in six women and girls, more than 35,000, between the  
8 age of 12 and 44, live below the Federal Poverty Line and often struggle to purchase period  
9 products due to their or their family's lack of income; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States, one in four teenaged young women has missed a class  
11 due to a lack of access to adequate period supplies, and one in five low-income women report  
12 missing work due to lack of access to period supplies; and

13 WHEREAS, For women and girls who live below the Federal Poverty Line, there is often  
14 a no-win choice between paying for food or period products, and has too often resulted in the use  
15 of alternate unsanitary practices and products putting their health at risk; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition, during menstruation, women are often forced to disrupt their  
17 regular activity, resulting in missed opportunities, negative effects on their self-esteem, and social  
18 stigma; and

19 WHEREAS, Adequate availability, dignity, and justice is deserved and must be inherent

1 to solving Period Poverty and menstrual social stigma in Rhode Island and across the globe; now,  
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby memorializes “Period  
4 Poverty Awareness Week” on May 22nd – 28th, 2023, and supports the global effort to raise  
5 awareness about the need for period products to be more accessible and affordable, to break the  
6 stigma of menstruation, and efforts to advocate for policy and funding to make these goals a  
7 reality; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Quinn Coleman, Service Director, Period  
10 Equity at Brown University, amenityaid in Warwick, and the RI Foundation.

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