



# City of Wilmington

Michelle Harlee  
City Council Member, 4th District

Louis L. Redding City/County Building  
800 N. French Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3537

phone (302) 576-2140  
fax (302) 571-4071  
[www.WilmingtonDE.gov](http://www.WilmingtonDE.gov)

## **Health, Aging & Disabilities Committee**

Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II, Chair  
Ciro Adams  
Rysheema J. Dixon  
Christofer C. Johnson  
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner  
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

## **Education, Youth & Families Committee**

Michelle Harlee, Chair  
Linda M. Gray, Vice Chair  
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II  
Charles M. "Bud" Freel  
Yolanda McCoy  
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner  
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

## ➤ **REVISED NOTICE**

Education, Youth & Families and Health, Aging & Disabilities  
Joint Committee Meeting  
February 12, 2020  
5:00 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Council Committee Room

## **Agenda**

- A Resolution Encouraging the Delaware General Assembly to Support HB 285, which will provide female students in grades 6-12 with free feminine hygiene products and thus remove barriers to their education
- Presentation by Education Golf Program
- Presentation by Delaware Children's Museum
- Presentation by Year Up Wilmington

REV. 1. (02/11/2020)

*If public comment is permitted during this committee meeting, any member of the public who wishes to speak during the committee meeting will be limited to three minutes per agenda item. If the public's permission to comment is abused, the Chair may exercise greater discretion in limiting public comment.*

Wilmington, Delaware  
February 20, 2020

#XXXX

**Sponsor:**

**President  
Hanifa  
Shabazz**

**Co-Sponsors:**

**Council  
Members  
Walsh  
Gray  
Oliver  
Harlee  
McCoy  
Dixon  
Congo**

**WHEREAS**, a Confidence & Puberty Survey done by Always, a well-known brand of feminine hygiene products, found that almost 1 in 4 teenage girls in the United States have not attended school because they didn't have feminine products, and 1 in 5 teenage girls in the United States do not have the means to consistently afford feminine products; and

**WHEREAS**, the Free the Tampons Foundation found that 86% of women who menstruate will have their periods start unexpectedly in public without the necessary feminine products on hand. While 48% of these women will attempt to use tampon or pad dispensers in public restrooms, only 8% say that those dispensers worked or were stocked; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware Senate Bill 166, which provides feminine products for free for those in custody at facilities operated by the Department of Corrections, and facilities operated by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, was passed and signed by the Governor on September 13, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware does not have a sales tax, therefore feminine products don't have additional taxes when purchased. However, feminine products are not covered by the government Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 50% of Wilmington households with children under 18 years old receive SNAP benefits, therefore a significant population of girls in our city may not have reliable access to feminine products in their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois, New Hampshire, California, and New York schools with students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are now required to provide free feminine products in the restrooms themselves due to recent state legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 285 sponsored by Representative Valerie Longhurst, and co-sponsored by Representative Dorsey-Walker, Senator Darius Brown, and Senator Elizabeth Lockman, who all represent Wilmington was passed by the House of Representatives on January 30, 2020. House Bill 285 requires schools with students “grades 6-12 to provide free feminine hygiene products in 50% of the bathrooms used by students who can have a menstrual cycle”; and

**WHEREAS**, feminine products are bathroom necessities just as much as toilet paper, paper towels, soap, and water. The over 4,000 girls in Wilmington middle Schools and high Schools need to have reliable and affordable access to feminine products as this will remove barriers for them to receive the quality education they deserve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the City Council strongly supports House Bill 285 pertaining to providing free menstrual products in Delaware public and private middle and high schools. In addition, the City Council strongly encourages the Honorable Senators of the Delaware General Assembly to vote in favor of House Bill 285 as it provides positive support for our students.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution expresses strong support from the Wilmington City Council for House Bill 285, and strongly encourages the Honorable Senators of the Delaware General Assembly to pass House Bill 285.