

Wilmington, Delaware
February 20, 2020

#4780

WHEREAS, a Confidence & Puberty Survey done by Always, a well-known brand of

Sponsor:

feminine hygiene products, found that almost 1 in 4 teenage girls in the United States have not

**President
Hanifa
Shabazz**

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

Co-Sponsors:

WHEREAS, the Free the Tampons Foundation found that 86% of women who

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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 6th grade to 12th 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.