

Associated Students

Resolution 02

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Subject: Sustainable Menstruation: Making Periods Sustainable and Accessible to All Date: _____

Whereas: Associated Students at Mt. San Antonio College recognizes Period Poverty as the lack of access, affordability, and sustainability of Menstrual Healthcare in California schools. A.S. will work in solidarity for holistic menstrual equity making periods sustainable and accessible to all.

Previous efforts are recognized, such as the A.S. ‘Free Feminine Hygiene Project’ Resolution from May 7, 2019. The voices of the students are ongoing and advocating that menstrual products must be free, accessible, and sustainable. The products provided should be Chlorine Free and made by organic cotton so that our students are not affected by the chemicals contained in some pads and tampons. This not only benefits the environment but also the well being of students at Mt San Antonio College.

Assembly member, Cristina Garcia, continues her work on menstrual equity with the introduction to AB 1989 Ingredient Disclosure, AB 2003 Menstrual Product Access, and the passage of AB 31 Ax the Tax.

AB 1989 will protect people’s health by requiring the disclosure of all ingredients in menstrual products including tampons, pads, cups, disks, sponges, and menstrual underwear, but also allows manufacturers to hide certain ingredients as confidential business information (CBI). Nonetheless, in October 2019 New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law A.164B, introduced by Linda B. Rosenthal, making New York the first state in the nation to require disclosure of all intentionally-added ingredients in menstrual products on the label. Notably, and in direct contrast to AB 1989, the bill does not allow manufacturers to hide ingredients from their customers by deeming them as CBI.

AB 2003 would require free menstrual products in community college bathrooms in California. Assemblymember Garcia will expand on her work from 2017- when the self-proclaimed “Period Princess” was successful in expanding access to menstrual health products with the passage of AB 10. That bill required school districts to provide free menstrual health products in low-income middle and high school bathrooms.

AB 31 which would repeal the tax charged on menstrual health products for an additional 5 years, passed the Assembly Floor unanimously on January 27, 2020 and is now off to the Senate.

With the cost of college on the rise across the U.S., along with the cost of living increasing yearly, the ‘pink tax’ impacts half of our student population (on average). By educating students about the benefits of reusable menstrual care products, such as menstrual cups and cloth liners, and even providing them at no cost, we are empowering them to reduce waste, save money, and focus on their studies without worry.

Studies from “State of the Period: The Widespread Impact of Period Poverty on US Students” commissioned by Thinx and PERIOD, show that 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, and 1 in 10 said the shaming occurred in the classroom.

Conventional single-use products contain BPA and BPS, phthalates, and artificial fragrances all of which can have negative health effects. Chlorine bleach makes products bright white, but can create dioxin, which is a serious public health threat that has no “safe” level of exposure (EPA). A reusable menstrual product harnesses sustainability benefits. Medical grade silicone has no leaching of toxic chemicals. The consumer is estimated to save \$3,200 over their lifetime using reusable menstrual products.

All further initiatives combating period poverty must include the following goals:

- Connect sustainability with access and affordability to menstrual care products.
- Reduce stigma around menstruation.
- Increase visibility of the waste and health risks associated with single-use menstrual products.
- Increase the concept of gender-inclusive language when discussing menstruation.
- Support basic needs and student success initiatives.

Period products must be provided in public bathrooms, just like toilet paper. Menstrual products must also be provided in student pantries and resource centers that serve students’ basic needs.

Whereas: Disposable menstrual care products are wasteful and costly. Our organization finds it imperative to increase access to reusable menstrual products to cut costs and save the environment, but also recognizes the freedom of options and choices adhering to the students’ culture of menstrual maintenance. As well as to promote Menstrual Health Education programs- knowledge about product ingredients, anatomy, the menstrual cycle, and period stigma.

Whereas: It is recommended that Associated Students expand collaboration efforts and connect with student services and academic departments to combat period poverty. This may include, but not limited to, the Sustainability Committee, Basic Needs Committee, Student Health and Counseling, Equity Center, and Pride Center. In addition to mobilizing, doing so will foster the A.S. mission to unite, motivate, and empower our students and community. It is a stated priority that Associated Students support the development of the student body through civic engagement and advocacy.

Whereas: It is indicative that ‘sustainable menstruation’ is a new and innovative area to explore within higher education. It aligns with many broad campus goals of zero waste, basic needs, and student success. It also opens the door to new conversations, engagement strategies, and partnership opportunities. This will allow students to better focus on their academic success and feel accommodated by the campus.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approve Sustainable Menstruation: Making Periods Sustainable and Accessible to All.

A.S. Senate
For: _____ Against: _____ Abstain: _____ Date: _____
A.S. Executive Board
For: _____ Against: _____ Abstain: _____ Date: _____
A.S. President
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Veto Signature: _____ Date: _____