Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 260, the Menstrual Equity Act of 2023, authored by State Senator Caroline Menjivar, to expand CalWorks to cover menstrual hygiene product purchases.

WHEREAS, Menstrual inequities exist across California for our most vulnerable communities and create financial barriers and obstacles for menstruating people on daily activities; and

WHEREAS, A national study performed by Alliance for Period Supplies showed inaccessibility to menstrual hygiene products has led to one in three low-income menstruating people missing work, school, or other important commitments; and

WHEREAS, Rising costs and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have compounded the issue, and according to a YouGov survey conducted in 2021, 2 in 5 menstruating people cited a lack of income as a barrier to purchasing menstrual hygiene products such as tampons or pads and are forced to resort to less sanitary or healthy options; and

WHEREAS, YouGov’s research also documented how a lack of access to menstrual hygiene products disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and 23% of Black and 24% of Latina respondents stated that they “strongly agreed” with struggling to afford period products in the past year; and

WHEREAS, Along with the possibility of physical complications, including infection, the mental health toll on a person with lack of access to menstrual hygiene projects can be great and result in anxiety and depression; and
WHEREAS, Period poverty is linked with food insecurity and mental health, specifically 68.1% of those experiencing period poverty also report symptoms of moderate or severe depression; and

WHEREAS, Current federal aid, delivered through CalWORKs, assists eligible families with cash aid and services according to their needs but does not allow purchasing of menstrual hygiene products such as tampons, sanitary napkins, or cleansing wipes; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 318,000 families with children received vital assistance under CalWORKs, and this number is projected to increase considerably in 2023 due to economic uncertainties; and

WHEREAS, While California has addressed some financial needs for low-income families such as allocation for diapers, financial burdens still exist. Menstruating people should not miss work or be hindered from performing family duties because they cannot afford essential products; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 260 (SB 260), authored by State Senator Caroline Menjivar, will close an equity gap within the CalWORKs program to include purchasing of menstrual hygiene products for any menstruating persons between the ages of 10 and 55 years of age; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California Senate Bill No. 260, the Menstrual Equity Act of 2023, and urges the California State Legislature to pass this bill to expand the CalWORKs program to include the purchasing of menstrual hygiene products; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and the California State Senate as well as the Bill’s primary sponsor, State Senator Caroline Menjivar.
Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 260, the Menstrual Equity Act of 2023, authored by State Senator Caroline Menjivar, to expand CalWorks to cover menstrual hygiene product purchases.

June 13, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/13/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

06/23/2023
Date