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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 215 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COLLETT, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA, HUGHES,  
FONTANA, HAYWOOD, COMITTA, BREWSTER, SAVAL, TARTAGLIONE,  
KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, DILLON AND STREET, DECEMBER 12, 2023

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DECEMBER 12, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to expand certain Federal  
2 safety net programs to provide menstrual hygiene products.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 13% of women in the United States  
4 lived below the Federal poverty level in 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Almost 12% of Pennsylvania families live in poverty,  
6 according to data from the United States Census Bureau; and

7 WHEREAS, "Period poverty" is defined as inadequate access to  
8 menstrual hygiene products and education, clean toilets and  
9 hand-washing facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, The average person spends approximately \$9 per  
11 month, or \$1,964, over the course of a lifetime on menstrual  
12 hygiene products; and

13 WHEREAS, Federal statute and regulations prohibit Federal  
14 safety net programs for low-income individuals, such as  
15 Medicaid, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
16 and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,  
17 Infants and Children (WIC) from providing free menstrual hygiene

1 products to enrollees; and

2 WHEREAS, As a result, many low-income people are faced with a  
3 difficult choice each month between purchasing food or menstrual  
4 hygiene products; and

5 WHEREAS, Research funded by menstrual product manufacturer U  
6 by Kotex shows that two in five people have struggled to  
7 purchase period products in 2021, a 35% increase from the  
8 brand's initial research in 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, One in four teens have left school early or missed  
10 school days because they lacked access to period products; and

11 WHEREAS, Without the financial resources to purchase  
12 menstrual hygiene products, people often resort to absorbent  
13 alternatives such as toilet paper, paper towels, socks or rags;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, When lacking access to menstrual hygiene products,  
16 some people are forced to extend the length of time that they  
17 use a tampon or pad, or reuse a soiled pad, thereby risking  
18 infection and potentially toxic shock syndrome; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
20 respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass legislation  
21 requiring the Medicaid program, the Supplemental Nutrition  
22 Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program  
23 for Women, Infants and Children and any other applicable Federal  
24 safety net program to include menstrual hygiene products among  
25 the covered benefits for all eligible participants; and be it  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
28 the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the  
29 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
30 Representatives, the Minority Leaders of both chambers of

- 1 Congress, the United States Secretary of Health and Human
- 2 Services and each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.