

1
2
3 **SUB 1 to 2015 RES-317**

4 **AUTHORIZING DANE COUNTY TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC**
5 **RESTROOMS OF COUNTY BUILDINGS BEGINNING IN 2016**

6 The stigma around menstruation and the related inability to access menstrual products around
7 the world causes women to miss school, work, and suffer repeated vaginal infections. In the
8 United States, access to menstrual products is a significant problem, especially for low-income
9 women. Wisconsin taxes the sales of menstrual products. Federal Supplemental Nutrition
10 Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Share or food stamps, does not cover
11 menstrual products. Incarcerated women frequently do not have access to menstrual
12 products. Homeless women suffer an enormous burden trying to maintain their hygiene without
13 access to menstrual products, 24 hour restrooms, and accessible showers.

14
15 The United Nations and Human Rights Watch consider menstrual hygiene integral to realizing
16 the right to human dignity. As our County moves forward with efforts to achieve equity and
17 greater access to health care for all people, it is important to recognize the basic human need
18 and human right to menstrual hygiene. Other States have stopped taxing the sales of menstrual
19 products and other communities, including New York City, are improving access by subsidizing
20 provision of cost-free menstrual products.

21
22 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Dane County shall pilot the provision of
23 tampons and pads at no cost in the following restrooms of ~~eight (8)~~ Dane County buildings
24 operated by Facilities Management beginning in 2016: City County Building, Public Safety
25 Building, Courthouse, Northport, Job Center, South Madison, and Badger Prairie;

26
27 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the eight (8) buildings for the pilot project shall be selected~~
28 ~~by Dane County Human Services Department staff as the facilities most accessible to low~~
29 ~~income women in Dane County;~~

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County shall install coin-free menstrual product
32 dispensers at the comprehensive day resource center planned for 1326 E. Washington Ave;
33

34 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Human Services- Facilities Management~~ staff shall report to
35 Public Works and Transportation regarding the pilot project no later than July 1, 2016;
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dane County send a copy of this resolution to all Dane
38 County funded service providers serving low income families and request that they make
39 menstrual products available to their clients by July 1, 2016;
40

41 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dane County requests~~ supports Wisconsin State Assembly
42 Bill 555 the State legislature authored by State Representative Melissa Sargent to eliminate the
43 sales tax on menstrual products and require provision of free menstrual products in state-owned
44 buildings and public schools;
45

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dane County requests that the U.S. Congress enact
47 legislation to make menstrual products eligible purchases with federal Supplemental Nutrition
48 Assistance Program (SNAP benefits - aka Food Stamps or FoodShare);
49

50 BE IT ~~FINALLY~~ FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dane County send this resolution to Public Health
51 Madison and Dane County, all Dane County municipalities, the University of Wisconsin,

52 Madison 45 College, school districts and State legislators requesting they take action consistent
53 with this resolution to expand access to menstrual products; and

54
55 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board Human Services Board shall receive
56 copies of all responses to the resolution to facilitate further recommendations on expanding
57 access to menstrual products in Dane County.

58