

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 260 (Menjivar) - Menstrual Equity Act of 2023]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 260, the Menstrual Equity Act of**
4 **2023, authored by State Senator Caroline Menjivar, to expand CalWorks to cover**
5 **menstrual hygiene product purchases.**

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Along with the possibility of physical complications, including infection, the
22 mental health toll on a person with lack of access to menstrual hygiene projects can be great
23 and result in anxiety and depression; and

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1 WHEREAS, Period poverty is linked with food insecurity and mental health, specifically
2 68.1% of those experiencing period poverty also report symptoms of moderate or severe
3 depression; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
23 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and the California
24 State Senate as well as the Bill's primary sponsor, State Senator Caroline Menjivar.

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