

R W2022.06

A Resolution Advocating for LSA to Provide Free Menstrual Products in University Bathrooms in Light of the Ann Arbor Menstrual Product Ordinance

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, Ann Arbor recently became the first US city to require free menstrual products in public restrooms;² and,

Whereas, the ordinance indicates that soap, toilet paper and menstrual products are all instrumental to the general health and welfare of the public and that ensuring such products are readily available in public restrooms will prevent the spread of germs, reduce the transmission of bloodborne pathogens and improve the general public welfare;³ and,

Whereas, the University of Michigan (hereafter UM) has not yet decided if it will abide by the new Ann Arbor ordinance requiring menstrual and sanitary products in public bathrooms, a cause of concern for many in the student body;⁴ and,

Whereas, UM is not subject to follow the city of Ann Arbor’s regulation in all matters, and thus will not be bound by law to follow the aforementioned ordinance; and,

Whereas, adopting the resolution, however, would demonstrate UM’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and,

Whereas, the lack of equitable access to menstrual products has remained a foremost consternation for students at LSA and the wider UM community, leading to feelings of disquietude⁵; and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² [CNN- Ann Arbor Menstrual Ordinance](#)

³ [Ordinance No. ORD-21-32- Sanitation Supplies in Public Restrooms](#)

⁴ [Michigan Daily- UM Undecided on Menstrual Product Ordinance](#)

⁵ [Soneida Rodriguez: The power of the period](#)

Whereas, many student advocacy groups, including The Dot Org, have met with Regents Mark Bernstein, Jordan Acker, Paul Brown and Ron Weiser and other administrators following the success of several successful student-led pilot programs for menstrual products;⁶ and,

Whereas, period poverty is a significant issue with 1 in 10 college students unable to afford panty liners, pads, tampons and other menstrual hygiene supplies;⁷ and,

Whereas, the average monthly cost of menstrual products is roughly \$10, totaling to an average annual cost of roughly \$120;⁸ and,

Whereas, there are also long-term and sustainable options that UM can pursue such as reusable maxi pads that have been distributed through University Health Services in their Sustainable Period Project pilot⁹; and,

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG is in support of menstrual products being free and available in all U-M campus buildings and in support of the Ann Arbor ordinance; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG is cognizant of the success and benefit of pilot menstrual product programs in many campus buildings; and,

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG shall send a copy of this resolution, along with a statement, to the LSA Dean Anne Curzan, LSA Assistant Dean Kelly Maxwell, Senior EHS Representative Brett Goecke, and Director of Maintenance Services Stephen Brabbs.

⁶ [Michigan Daily- Push for Free Menstrual Products on Campus](#)

⁷ [Forbes- 1 in 10 College Students](#)

⁸ [Period Products Cost Calculator](#)

⁹ [UM- Sustainable Period Project](#)