

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE
SESSION LXIV TERM I

IN THE SENATE
RESOLUTION 624
SPONSORED BY
LEXI JORGENSON, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
CO-SPONSORED BY
EMMA WATTS, PRESIDENT
JULIA FINCO, VICE PRESIDENT OF IDAHO FALLS

The purpose of this resolution is to state the Associated Students of Idaho State University's support for providing free menstrual products, including pads, tampons, and/or menstrual cups, in all university female and gender neutral bathrooms.

WHEREAS: Idaho remains one of 21 states across the U.S. that consider menstrual products as “non-essential”. “Menstrual products” are defined as menstrual pads, tampons, and cups for use in connection with the menstrual cycle. Currently, menstruators are forced to pay 6% tax on period products because they are deemed as “luxury items”. The state of Idaho still requires a 6% sales tax on all menstrual products, deeming them as “non-essential” and “luxury items”¹.

WHEREAS: Idaho State University is the state’s designated lead institution in health professions and is home to more than 75 percent of Idaho's health degree programs².

WHEREAS: Over 5,300 students, staff, and faculty on ISU’s campus are individuals of menstrual age³.

WHEREAS: Menstruation is not a choice, and access to menstrual products is a right, not a privilege. The Tampon Tax is a cost that non-menstrators are exempt from simply as a result of their biology.

WHEREAS: One in five girls miss school due to a lack of menstrual products.⁴

¹ Tampon Taxes: Do Feminine Hygiene Products Deserve a Sales Tax Exemption? (taxfoundation.org)

² Idaho State University Homepage (<https://www.isu.edu/>)

³ ISU Office of Institutional Research, 2023

⁴ Changing the Cycle: Period Poverty as a Public Health Crisis (<https://sph.umich.edu/pursuit/2020posts/period-poverty.html>)

WHEREAS: Being unable to afford menstrual products, also known as period poverty, often leads individuals to use unhygienic methods to manage their period. When menstruators cannot afford period products, they are forced to use toilet paper, socks, or even cardboard. This is clearly unhygienic, leading to even more severe health issues. College students and the broader ISU community should not have to make the decision between food or tampons.

WHEREAS: A simple biological process shouldn't be a barrier to equality.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Associated Students of Idaho State University supports the proposal to provide free menstrual products, including tampons, pads, and/or menstrual cups in all female and gender-neutral bathrooms. We want to ensure that menstrual products are readily available to students in a convenient and discreet manner, promoting easy access and reducing any potential stigma associated with menstruation.

DATE OF FIRST INTRODUCTION:

SENATE ACTION: _____ DATE: _____

ASISU PRESIDENT: _____ DATE: _____

ASISU SECRETARY: _____ DATE: _____