

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 61

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

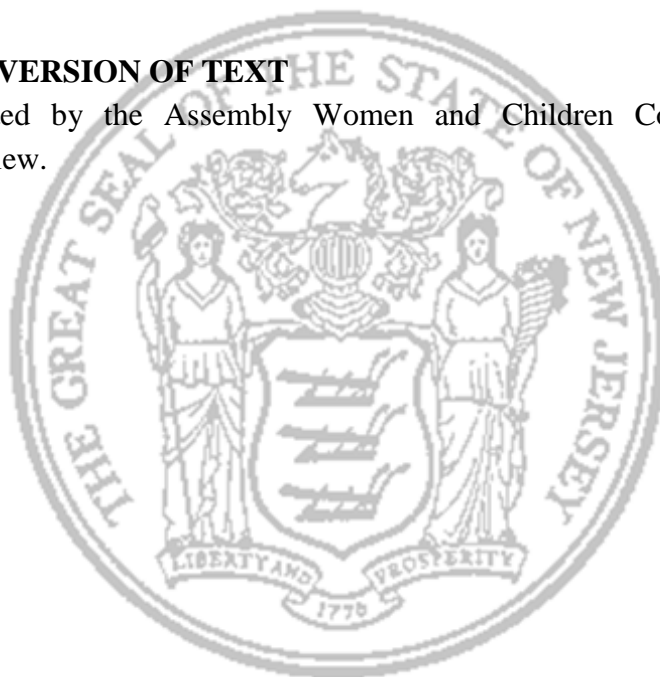
**Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywomen Jasey, Lampitt, Lopez, Park, Assemblyman Stanley and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to provide menstrual hygiene products under Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2023)**

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to  
2 expand certain federal safety net programs to provide menstrual  
3 hygiene products.  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 13 percent of women in the United States  
6 lived below the federal poverty level in 2018; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, Ten percent of New Jersey women live in poverty,  
8 according to data from Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, “Period Poverty” is defined as inadequate access to  
10 menstrual hygiene products and education, clean toilets, and  
11 handwashing facilities; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, The average menstruator spends approximately \$9 per  
13 month, or \$1,964 over the course of a lifetime, on menstrual  
14 hygiene products; and  
15 **WHEREAS**, Federal statute and regulations prohibit federal safety net  
16 programs for low-income individuals, such as Medicaid, the  
17 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the  
18 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and  
19 Children (WIC) from providing free menstrual hygiene products to  
20 enrollees; and  
21 **WHEREAS**, As a result, many low-income menstruators are faced with  
22 a difficult choice each month between purchasing food or menstrual  
23 hygiene products; and  
24 **WHEREAS**, In 2020, 66 percent of low income women surveyed  
25 reported that they were unable to afford menstrual hygiene products  
26 at some point during the previous year, while 20 percent of these  
27 respondents faced this problem on a monthly basis; and  
28 **WHEREAS**, Research funded by menstrual pad manufacturer Always  
29 shows that 20 percent of school-aged menstruators have left school  
30 early or missed school days because they lacked access to  
31 menstrual hygiene products; and  
32 **WHEREAS**, Without the financial resources to purchase menstrual  
33 hygiene products, menstruators often resort to such alternatives as  
34 toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, socks, or rags; and  
35 **WHEREAS**, Some menstruators, lacking access to menstrual hygiene  
36 products, are forced to extend the length of time that they use a  
37 tampon or pad, or reuse a soiled pad, thereby risking infection and,  
38 potentially, toxic shock syndrome; and  
39 **WHEREAS**, Since the start of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic,  
40 nonprofit organizations that distribute free menstrual hygiene products  
41 have reported increases in requests for donated products as families  
42 face financial struggles due to pandemic-related job losses and reduced  
43 hours of employment, and as school closings have deprived some  
44 menstruators of menstrual hygiene products previously provided by  
45 teachers or school nurses; now, therefore,

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1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
2 *Jersey:*

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4       1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to  
5 pass legislation requiring the Medicaid program, the Supplemental  
6 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental  
7 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and  
8 any other applicable federal safety-net program to include  
9 menstrual hygiene products among the covered benefits for all  
10 eligible menstruators.

11

12       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
13 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
14 President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United  
15 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
16 Representatives, the Minority Leaders of both chambers of  
17 Congress, the United States Secretary of Health and Human  
18 Services, and each member of Congress elected from New Jersey.