

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Declares May 28 of each year as Menstrual Equity Day in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** declaring May 28 of each year as
2 Menstrual Equity Day in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, May 28 is designated internationally to be Menstrual
5 Hygiene Day, and has been observed each year since 2014 to serve
6 as a reminder that women, girls, and transgender individuals across
7 the world continue to face a variety of unnecessary challenges due
8 to their menstruation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Periods are a natural biological function, and period
10 supplies are necessary products, not luxury items, for those who
11 menstruate; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Research shows that, due to a lack of income, one in four
13 menstruators nationwide lives in “period poverty,” which describes
14 the struggle to secure adequate period supplies for women, girls,
15 and transgender individuals to meet their menstrual needs each
16 month; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, one in eight menstruators between the ages
18 of 12 and 44 live below the federal poverty level, and therefore are
19 likely experiencing period poverty; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Period poverty can result in menstruators withdrawing
21 from daily life to avoid period shame and stigma, leading to lost
22 wages and missed educational opportunities, thereby exacerbating
23 the already vicious cycle of poverty; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Job losses during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
25 19) pandemic have disproportionately affected women and
26 increased the number of individuals struggling with period poverty;
27 and

28 **WHEREAS**, Menstrual equity activists and advocates in New Jersey
29 have formed Equality, Period. NJ, which is a Statewide coalition
30 dedicated to eliminating period stigma, period poverty, and barriers
31 to menstrual product access through policy change and advocacy;
32 and

33 **WHEREAS**, Equality, Period. NJ recognizes that period poverty is a
34 public health issue, and that addressing period poverty can lead to
35 improved health and economic outcomes for menstruators; now,
36 therefore,

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38 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
39 General Assembly concurring):

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41 1. May 28 of each year is declared to be Menstrual Equity Day
42 in New Jersey, in order to recognize the service of advocates, period
43 supply banks, and their staff, volunteers, and donors, particularly
44 during the COVID-19 crisis. The Governor is respectfully called
45 upon to commemorate the day with appropriate programs and
46 activities, and the citizens and elected officials of New Jersey are
47 respectfully encouraged to work on reducing period poverty,
48 eliminating period stigma, and ensuring that all New Jerseyans who

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1 menstruate can, with ease and dignity, access safe and affordable
2 menstrual products.

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STATEMENT

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7 This concurrent resolution declares May 28 of each year to be
8 Menstrual Equity Day in New Jersey, and respectfully calls on the
9 Governor to commemorate the day with appropriate programs and
10 activities and respectfully encourages the citizens and elected
11 officials of New Jersey to work on reducing period poverty,
12 eliminating period stigma, and ensuring that all New Jerseyans who
13 menstruate can, with ease and dignity, access safe and affordable
14 menstrual products.

15 Period poverty describes the struggle experienced by many
16 women, girls, and transgender individuals to secure adequate period
17 supplies to meet their menstrual health needs each month. It is
18 estimated that period poverty affects one in four menstruators
19 nationwide, and one in eight menstruators in New Jersey. Period
20 poverty can exacerbate issues related to poverty, as menstruators
21 stay home from work or pass up occupational or educational
22 opportunities to avoid the potential shame and stigma of appearing
23 in public with inadequate period supplies to meet their needs.

24 Declaring May 28 to be Menstrual Equity Day recognizes the
25 service of advocates, period supply banks, and their staff,
26 volunteers, and donors, particularly during the coronavirus disease
27 2019 (COVID-19) crisis.