

ACCESS TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

- WHEREAS:** Individuals who menstruate make up more than half the population of the world; and
- WHEREAS:** No individual should be made to feel ashamed or embarrassed in experiencing menstruation; and
- WHEREAS:** No individual should have to be absent from school or work, experience health risks, or compromise their dignity because of menstruation; and
- WHEREAS:** Seventeen percent of women around the world report missing school, work or an event because they were afraid of others finding out they were menstruating; and
- WHEREAS:** Eighty-six percent of women say they have experienced the unexpected onset of their period in public without the supplies they needed; and
- WHEREAS:** The average menstruating individual spends \$70 per year on tampons and pads; and
- WHEREAS:** Over a lifetime, a woman in Michigan will pay about \$150 in sales taxes levied on personal hygiene products; and
- WHEREAS:** One in five children live in poverty in the United States, and food and clothing banks continually report shortages of feminine hygiene products, which are not luxury goods, but rather essential products necessary to maintain the health of individuals who menstruate; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan calls on the Michigan Legislature to pass and Governor Snyder to sign Michigan House Bill 5427, which requires all public schools to provide feminine hygiene products free of charge in all bathrooms; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan calls on the Michigan Legislature to pass and Governor Snyder to sign Michigan House Bill 5569, which repeals the sales tax on all feminine hygiene products and provide alternative tax revenue to hold the School Aid Fund harmless from any loss of revenue.

Submitted and Recommended for Adoption by:

Human Rights Committee (May 2, 2016)

Revised and Approved by AFT Michigan 74th Convention (May 14, 2016)