

## RESOLUTION NO. 318

### ESTABLISHING A MENSTRUAL EQUITY POLICY FOR ALBANY COUNTY FACILITIES AND AMENDING THE 2021 ALBANY COUNTY BUDGET

Introduced: 9/13/21

By Ms. McLean Lane, Messrs. Feeney, A. Joyce, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Beston, Bruschi, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Cleary, Commisso, Domalewicz, Efekoro, Ethier, Fein, R. Joyce, Kuhn, Ms. Lekakis, Mr. Mayo, Ms. McLaughlin, Messrs. Miller, Reidy, Reinhardt, Ricard, Simpson, Smith and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence experienced by more than half the population for much of their lives, and should not be treated differently than any other basic bodily function, be considered “taboo” or otherwise stigmatized in any way, and

WHEREAS, Menstrual products are vital for the health, well-being and full participation of individuals throughout the County, and the ability to access these items affects a person’s freedom to work, study, stay healthy, and engage in the world with basic dignity, and

WHEREAS, Menstrual products are basic necessities, much like toilet paper and soap, and should never be treated as luxury items or accessories, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature finds that 86% of menstruating people in the United States have found themselves in need of menstrual products while in public, and 79% of menstruating people have been forced to “create” a tampon or pad out of toilet paper or other non-hygienic items, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature believes that all people, including its employees and those who use County facilities, should have guaranteed access to free menstrual products, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that it shall be the policy of Albany County that menstrual products, including tampons and sanitary pads/napkins, shall be made available in all appropriate County-owned or managed facility restrooms designated female or unisex, at no cost to recipients, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is hereby authorized and encouraged to work with the Department of General Services and take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this County policy as soon as possible, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 2021 Albany County Budget is amended as follows:

Decrease Appropriation Account A1990.4 by \$75,000 by decreasing Line Item A1990 4 4999 Misc Contractual Expense by \$75,000

Increase Appropriation Account A1620.4 by \$75,000 by increasing Line Item A1620 4 4024 Housekeeping Supplies by \$75,000

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

*Referred to Health Committee – 9/13/21*

*Favorable Recommendation Health Committee – 9/30/21*

*Adopted by unanimous vote – 10/12/21*