

**TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

9TH REGULAR Session, 20 26

Y.C.B. No. 20- 06

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To mandate that all PSS schools provide, free of
charge to students, menstrual hygiene products;
and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

1 **Section 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as "The CNMI Menstrual Hygiene
2 Access Act of 2026 ".

3 **Section 2. Finding and Purpose.** The Youth Congress recognizes that
4 women in the CNMI are held at a significant disadvantage during their menstrual
5 cycle. According to a South West News Source study held in 2019, the average
6 woman spends \$13.25 a month on menstrual hygiene products-that's \$6,360 in an
7 average woman's reproductive lifetime. The inability to afford menstrual hygiene
8 products occurs globally, and should not fail to be addressed. In the same study,
9 statistics revealed that the top locations where women think menstruation products
10 should be stocked for free were high schools (61 percent), colleges and universities
11 (55 percent) and middle schools /junior high schools (52 percent). With free access

1 to menstrual hygiene products in public schools within the CNMI, a permanent
2 solution is provided to students who deal with the struggle of period poverty, which
3 can be defined as inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products including, but
4 not limited, to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management due to
5 financial hardships.

6 Without access to menstrual hygiene products such as tampons, pads, or
7 liners. women are not able to partake in day-to-day activities, which includes
8 attending their respective school. States including Washington, Illinois, and
9 California require public school facilities that serve female students in the 4th
10 through 12th grade to regularly provide menstrual hygiene products free from
11 charge in restroom facilities.

12 The Youth Congress further finds that (1) menstrual hygiene products are a
13 health care necessity and not an item that can be foregone or substituted easily; (2)
14 access to menstrual hygiene products is a serious and ongoing need in the CNMI;
15 (3) when students do not have access to affordable menstrual hygiene product , they
16 may miss multiple days of school every month; and (4) When students have access
17 to quality menstrual hygiene products, they are able to continue with their daily
18 lives with minimal interruption. Therefore, the intent of the Youth Congress i to
19 require all public schools within the CNMI: elementary. middle and high schools
20 to regularly provide free access to menstrual hygiene products in all female public

1 restroom facilities. It is with further intent that these menstrual products remain free
2 from charge, just as toilet tissue and paper towels

3 **Section 3. Enactment.** The following provisions are hereby enacted subject
4 to codification by the CNMI Law Revision Commission:

5 **“§ 101. Availability of menstrual hygiene products.**

6 (a) The CNMI Public School System shall make menstrual hygiene
7 products available, at no cost to students, in all female designated bathrooms, of
8 every school building that are open for student use in grades 4 through 12 during
9 the regular school day.

10 (b) The CNMI Public School System shall make menstrual hygiene
11 products available, at no cost to students, in all gender designed bathrooms, if any,
12 of every school building. If a school building does not have an all gender bathroom,
13 menstrual hygiene products shall be available at least one male designated
14 bathroom at a school building.

15 (c) For purposes of this section

16 (1) “Menstrual hygiene products” means tampons, and sanitary
17 napkins for use in connection with the menstrual cycle.

18 (2) “All gender bathroom” means a bathroom that can be used
19 by a person of any gender or gender identity.

20 (3) “School building” means any facility (i) that is owned or
21 leased by the CNMI Public School System or over which the Board of

Education has care, custody, and control and (ii) in which there is a public school serving students in grades 4 through 12.

“§ 102. Inspections; Corrective Action; Citation; Penalty.

(a) The CNMI Bureau of Environmental Health shall regularly inspect all public school buildings to ensure compliance of this Act.

(b) Whenever an inspector makes an inspection and discovers that any provision of §101 has been violated, the inspector shall record his findings on an inspection report form for the person in charge at the public school building.

(c) The person in charge at the school building who has received the inspection report indicating violation or non-compliance shall correct the violation and implement corrective actions within 5 days of receipt of the inspection report.

(d) After receiving notification that the person in charge has corrected a violation of §101 or at the end of the 5-day period for correction, the inspector shall verify correction of the violation through inspection, document the information on an inspection report, and enter the report in Bureau of Environmental Health records.

(e) If the corrective action is not implemented within the 5-day period pursuant to §102(c), the inspector shall issue a citation for the violation. A person in charge at a public school building found violating the requirements of this Act or the regulations promulgated there under shall, upon issuance of notice to the person in charge by the inspector, be fined and penalized in the following manner:

1 (1) First offense: A fine of up to \$500.00.

2 (2) Second or subsequent offense: A fine of up to \$1000.00.

3 (f) The CNMI Bureau of Environmental Health shall promulgate
4 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.”

5 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
9 shall not be affected thereby.

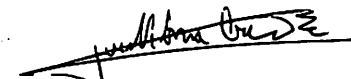
10 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
11 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
12 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
13 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
14 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
15 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
16 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

17 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
18 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: _____

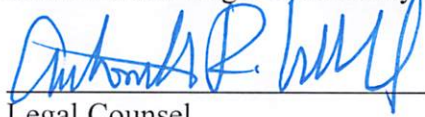
Date: 08/15/2026

Introduced by: _____



Senator Jireh Anna C. Cruz

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony R. Huff", is written over a horizontal line.

Legal Counsel