22-1 Reproductive Freedoms for Hamilton Students

STUDENT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 22-1

Abstract: This resolution calls for Hamilton College to increase accessibility to sexual, menstrual, and reproductive health products and services for all students.

Introduced by: Corey Bravo-Sloan ‘25, Nevaeh Gutierrez ’25, Dewayne Martin ‘24, Adina Mujica ‘24, Evelyn Molina ‘23, Marvin Lopez ‘23

Type of Action: Recommendation


Addressed to:
- David Wippman, President of Hamilton College
- Terry Martinez, Vice President and Dean of Students
- Monica Inzer, Vice President for Enrollment Manager
- Suzanne Keen, Vice President For Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty
- Gillian King, Chief of Staff and Secretary To The Board Of Trustees
- Karen Leach, Vice President of Administration and Finance
- David Walden, Director of the Counseling Center, Staff Psychologist, Lecturer in Psychology
- Barbara Fluty, Director of the Health & Wellness Center
- Barry Rivet, Interim Director of Facilities Management
- Catherine Berryman, Title IX Coordinator

Whereas, this resolution has passed by majority, and;
Whereas, reproductive freedoms are under threat locally and nationwide and;
Whereas, all bathrooms (gender-neutral, men’s, women’s) at Hamilton College are not adequately stocked with menstrual products, and;
Whereas, Hamilton College does not currently offer emergency contraception free-of-charge (or at a reduced cost) at any location on-campus, and;
Whereas, Hamilton College currently charges some reproductive health support costs to a student’s
Whereas, Amherst College provides prescriptions of emergency contraception free-of-charge to all students in advance, and; 

Whereas, Wesleyan University provides one free, reusable menstrual cup at their respective Health Center, as well as replacements at 35% the retail price (sometimes through partnerships with student organizations), and; 

Whereas, lack of access to menstrual health products has been previously discussed at Hamilton College by the student body, student organizations, and members of Student Assembly, specifically in *The Spectator* in 2017 and 2018, and; 

Whereas, Title IX explicitly states that an institution receiving Department funds must operate its education program or activity in a nondiscriminatory manner, and; 

Whereas, because menstruation is archaically associated with female biology, a school’s failure to address the needs of all menstruating students amounts to a denial of educational opportunities on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity under Title IX, and; 

Whereas, more students have advocated for more access to sexual and menstrual health care products this semester via public comments, and; 

Whereas, the two nearest Planned Parenthood locations are in Utica, NY (9.2 miles away) and Rome, NY (14 miles away), and; 

Whereas, a study published in December 2021 found that critical to the success of all menstrual equity initiatives was obtaining social and financial support from the parent institution, with emphasis on the importance of generating support from both the student body and an institution’s

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1. Hamilton College Health Center Website: [Diagnostic and Clinical Care, Women’s and Men’s Sexual Care](https://www.hamilton.edu/health-center). 2022. 
6. Office for Civil Rights. "[Title IX and Sex Discrimination](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/sex-discrimination.html)". U.S Department of Education. 2022. 
administration, and;

Whereas, a study\(^9\) published in January 2021 documenting the pervasiveness of period poverty in college-aged individuals found that Black and Latine individuals had the highest levels of period poverty experiences in the last year (19% and 24.5% respectively).

Be it therefore resolved, The Student Assembly recommends and opens the space for further inquiry and action regarding access to on and off-campus reproductive health products and services on-campus, especially since several other schools\(^10\) around the country have already done so, and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly recommends that all Hamilton College bathrooms be supplied and adequately stocked with menstrual products, and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly recommends that Hamilton College expands the number of locations in which one can access contraceptives (i.e. external and internal condoms) such as residence halls and dining halls, and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly recommends that Hamilton College provides access to as many free or reduced-cost emergency contraceptives as needed, such as Plan B (effective up to 155 lbs), Ella (effective for 155-195lbs), and, if requested, surgical/in-clinic abortions for students, and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly recommends that Hamilton College absolves all costs related to reproductive and sexual healthcare provided to students, especially if those costs pose a danger to students’ financial well-being, and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly recommends that Hamilton College consider, and explicitly state that it will consider, funding student transportation to the nearest reproductive healthcare facilities (i.e. Planned Parenthood), and;

Be it further resolved, The Student Assembly petitions the College to create a dedicated website to centralize all reproductive, menstrual, and sexual wellness services and information, and;

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Be it finally resolved, The Student Assembly will establish a sub-committee of the Health and Wellness Committee to explicitly follow-up on this matter within 3 weeks of the start of the Fall 2022 semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Primary Authors
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