

# Resolution



ORDER NO: 2021-0585

DATE: June 15, 2021

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 15th day of June 2021 on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, The United Nations has declared that access to menstrual hygiene products is a public health, gender equality, and human rights issue, as a lack of access prevents half of the population from full societal participation; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2019, the first State of the Period report was released by the organizations Thinx and PERIOD. They found that one in five teens had experienced period poverty. A second study was released in May 2021 and found that Covid-19 had only made the problem worse. Of the 1,010 teenagers they spoke to, 23% said they've struggled to afford period products and 16% said that they've chosen to buy period products over food or clothes because of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 86% of individuals start their period unexpectedly in public without the products they need. Failing to provide menstrual hygiene products places menstruating students at a distinct disadvantage in school by causing them to miss critical time in the classroom. This places students at a disadvantage in the classroom which could potentially violate Title IX, a federal protection for students to be free from discrimination "on the basis of sex," including menstruation; and

**WHEREAS**, In Dallas County, a group of students from Skyline High School's Ignite program pushed against this disadvantage by advocating for the Dallas Independent School District (District) Menstrual Equity Campaign, an initiative to bring product dispensers with free pads and tampons to all secondary schools in the District; and


**WHEREAS**, The District accepted the Menstrual Hygiene Campaign proposal in an effort to provide an equitable learning environment for menstruating students. They have since installed dispensers in all high schools and provided for dispensers in all new secondary school buildings. The District is dedicated to expanding the installation of dispensers in middle schools and continuing to provide free menstrual hygiene products for students at all secondary schools; and


**WHEREAS**, The commonly recognized definition of menstrual equity is partially defined as the affordability, accessibility, and safety of menstrual products for all menstruators, but it is more than that. Menstrual equity is a human rights issue. It directly impacts the way people perceive themselves, their confidence, and their standard of living. 62% of students said they felt that the world is not set up for them to manage their periods with full confidence, and 58% said they are negatively affected by negative associations with periods; and

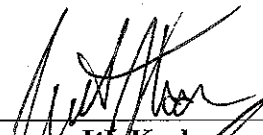
**WHEREAS**, The definition of menstrual equity continues to grow and change, as voices from all over the world continue the conversation about period health, product access, affordability, education, and safety; and

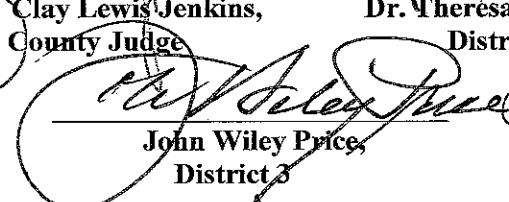
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby honor the courage and tenacity of a group of high school students determined to provide a more equitable learning environment for menstruators. The members of IGNITE are the embodiment of what women throughout history have fought for.

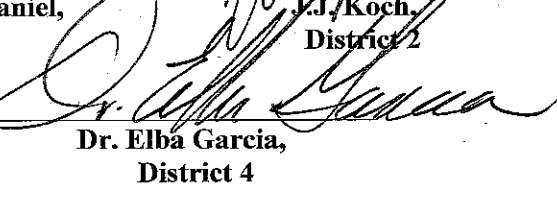
**DONE IN OPEN COURT** on this the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins,  
County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,  
District 1

  
J.J. Koch,  
District 2

  
John Wiley Price,  
District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia,  
District 4