



National Coalition to End Period Poverty Charter

Background

Over the last decade there has been increased attention and advocacy related to addressing the issue of period poverty. Period poverty is defined as a lack of access to menstrual products, education, hygiene facilities, waste management, or a combination of these.

Research has shown that nearly two-thirds of low-income women in the United States cannot afford menstrual products, which can have significant impacts on their health and well-being (National Women's Law Center, 2021). Additionally, studies have shown that access to menstrual products in schools can improve attendance and academic performance (Academy of Pediatrics, 2016).

In 2016, New York City became the first government in the United States to require schools to provide menstrual care products. Since then, 18 states have also moved to require access to these products in schools and six states have allocated funding towards such programs. Additionally, many international governments like Canada and Scotland have also moved to require access to these products in away from home bathrooms.

Currently, there are hundreds of groups globally working on addressing period poverty but to date the efforts have been fragmented. This coalition will bring these groups together to share information about various initiatives and policy work going on. It will also bring additional voices to the table from industry, the health community, and others who want to learn more or be more engaged on this issue.

The coalition is open for membership without any cost, and while it has the option to adopt stances on legislation, its primary emphasis is on facilitating collaboration among groups. The main goal is to encourage the sharing of information and the discussion of federal legislative and educational initiatives. This inclusive approach ensures that organizations, particularly those that may be unwilling or restricted from engaging in lobbying activities, can actively participate as members of the coalition.

Purpose

The Coalition's initial goal will be to build a national alliance dedicated to ending period poverty and promoting menstrual equity for all.

Our coalition aims to dismantle the barriers that prevent individuals from accessing safe menstrual products. The coalition will be centered around raising awareness, educating the public,



policyholders, and businesses about period equity. It will also raise awareness about why access to menstrual care products and period friendly bathrooms are important for personal hygiene and public health.

The coalition will initiate regular virtual meetings to discuss and strategize around various advocacy and educational efforts taking place, as well as serving as informational opportunities to learn about menstrual equity policy.

We strive to advocate for policies and initiatives that ensure period products are affordable, accessible, and free of stigma.

General Principles

- Reduce barriers and increase access to essential menstrual care products, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to affordable and high-quality products.
- Encourage the adoption of period-friendly bathrooms in public buildings.
- Raise awareness and educate the public about the importance of menstrual health.
- Advocate for policies and legislation at the national level that address period poverty, including the provision of free or subsidized menstrual products in schools, prisons, shelters, and other public facilities.
- Build partnerships with organizations, policymakers and stakeholders committed to advancing period equity.

Steering Committee Members

Alliance for Period Supplies

Girls Inc.

IGNITE

ISSA

Kids in Need Foundation

National Association of School Nurses

PERIOD.

Period Law

The Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America)

Membership

The National Coalition to End Period Poverty is a coalition of nonprofits, trade associations, nongovernmental organizations and other entities committed to promoting and advocating for ending period poverty. No politically aligned entities will be allowed to join.



This coalition is made up of organizations with the capacity to research, advocate, and spread awareness about menstrual equity policy. Several coalitions of local and statewide organizations effectively work towards period equity throughout the US, and this coalition hopes to both learn from their work and inform their local advocacy while advocating for federal level policy changes.

Coalition-Wide Activities

- Be listed on the coalition's website (you can opt-out)
- Participate in coalition calls
- Support information-sharing

Meetings

The Coalition shall meet, via a zoom call every quarter, or more frequently as the Coalition may determine.