**Proposal for Free Period Products for all Texas A&M-University Commerce Students**

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Menstrual Equity is one way to assure our female, non-binary, and transgender students that as a university we support them and want to show we care for them by providing free period products in university bathrooms across campus. Right now, there are at least two places on campus that offer period products (The Lions Food Pantry has supplies, as does Dr. Cardona in the history department, who makes “period packs” available to her students free outside her office). These are both wonderful endeavors, but neither solve the situation of a person in a bathroom in immediate need of a period product. This should be a university-wide project, filling bathrooms in all our academic and student buildings on campus and at our satellite spaces such as our new Dallas campus. It is important to not just limit our period products to women’s bathrooms, but we also need to have them available in gender neutral bathrooms as well.

According to [*The East Texan*](https://tamuceasttexan.com/6029/student-life/student-government-passes-free-menstrual-product-legislation/), the Student Government Association passed legislation for free period products on A&M-Commerce’s campus in 2019. Implementation and funding, however, is not known.

The only school in the system to fund and provide period products for all is Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, which uses a company called Aunt Flow that provides hundreds of colleges with dispensers and period products for their bathrooms.

Texas A&M has a student piloted program called the “Period Project” working in a few restrooms in main campus locations using Aunt Flow. The initiative is not permanent, but student government and various others students/alum are working to transition to a set program (as of March 2021).

Things to think about:

Number of bathrooms to start

30-60 days adjustment period – may see some students take more products at beginning, but as they see the items are stable and staying put, product usage stablizes

Customizable signage (info about periods, where to get more products if needed, university logos)

Person doing refilling – easy as possible

Potential Funding Resources:

* Office of Title XI
* Student Government Association
* Student Affairs
* Student Fees
* Facilities (Building Mgt)
* Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
* Student Health
* Department of Sustainability

**Information about working with Aunt Flow**

Aunt Flow (woman-owned) generally estimates that it costs $10-20 per woman/year.

* One time investment cost in the dispensers, after that it is just the product cost.
* Lifetime warranty on dispensers, universal key, holds 100 products at a time
* Small acrylic dispensers - $20 can be used in gender neutral/male bathrooms
* ADA-compliant, free-access, wall-mounted menstrual-product dispenser that is easy to reload and holds 5x the amount of product - Largest in industry!
* 100% organic cotton tampons and pads
* Aunt Flow’s Tampons are 100% degradable that reduce waste by 34% compared to current options
* Aunt Flow's Pads cover is 100% degradable, not available from other suppliers
* Mission Driven and Inclusive - [People Helping People. PERIOD!](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen45.com_s2t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CXdp3VPwQWt2P38QYW2dykcG8lgvjL101-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW4mKLS-2D3P4F4-5FW41Yyq-2D43YfrpW43T4P43zb1DNW1LC3Gn1GF6FVf4cKKwHV3-26si-3D8000000002985121-26pi-3Db7e4a427-2D8383-2D47e7-2Db863-2Dbd06fe6ddc0a&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=WVIkePBtiiYsqX4xH1nMKIBiDgFjdTj3NmjuSIfW1kE&e=)

Some Budget Numbers from Aunt Flow:

**DISPENSERS** (these would be for women’s bathrooms with good traffic)
[**Model E (Tampon & Pad)**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2-2DbjVs34HMV61W3-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=X5bODGyR8OPVkT1x1oN6L30KXIwFOjA206TiFNwFnRE&e=) Wall Mounted Dispenser -**($200/Each)**

[**Dispenser Performance**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen45.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CXdp3VPwQWt2P38QYW2dykcG8lgvjL101-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2Frsgn2KNP3T0-26si-3D8000000002985121-26pi-3D3f9fdb5a-2Db9e6-2D46a9-2D86b8-2D1fb6735bf701&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=1hV_7acmJU3bdmtmMpeefbo8XjRKZZ4vnmU-n0ZxdYQ&e=)

[**Bathroom Snapshots**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2FrsN-2D4mJ0m60-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=FuqiULxz3N-CtrX1XZBixnMreAt7GHV1uiHRE58q34c&e=)

**TAMPONS & PADS** (after initial investment, this is the only cost)
Aunt Flow is the ONLY Sustainable and Safe Menstrual Product available for commercial use!

[Tampons](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2-2DbjVs34HMP71W3-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=tN5cMk2FIOc-mpgDhZa7Ac9bFGeBgGG2N-8p44CqSJE&e=): 100% organic cotton, 100% degradable, smooth-tip applicator - 500ct Case ($125/Each)
[Pads](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2-2DbjVs34HMVK1W3-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=IiKuyGBHbtpEgHd9s8JqaRpWHIJQ5EfYjRzNT4B5Qp8&e=): 100% organic cotton, 100% degradable cover, medium flow with wings - 500ct Case ($125/Each)

**DUAL DISPLAY BOX** (these work for smaller bathrooms, gender neutral bathrooms, and selected men’s bathrooms)

[Acrylic Dual Display Boxes (White)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2-2DbjVs34HMPQ1W3-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=4xUoSr8pQ-n_ctnanu_TXTgOkQr3MJx0e_m6_uWaT44&e=)- ($20/Each)

**DO YOU HAVE TRASH RECEPTACLES IN EACH STALL?**
[Touch-Free Disposal Unit:](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.sidekickopen01.com_s3t_c_5_f18dQhb0S7kF8bGcF4W1np1vt59hl3kW7-5Fk2841CX6NGW35Qwst1D8-5FWNW1Dhtcm4N6y1mf197v5Y04-3Fte-3DW3R5hFj4cm2zwW3R5HxG1JCh31W2-2DbjVs34HSgg1W3-26si-3D8000000019899389-26pi-3D83ae7d24-2Dcaf2-2D4675-2D8ec8-2Ddd89ab837940&d=DwMFaQ&c=oqyuZuih6ykib6aKiBq22_bich4AVfYGoLertJN0bEc&r=SzV8kUIQaJ44kIJSnxzf-DbY78X1XrWO2BhuZ0cuKLY&m=7MtE8kVIgaKyQEOUGC3zw_657a8szVI1YCQE1dKCGxk&s=ARuW9iNqRspqdC8m5FVgTv6UjkNkEvHobTcCYvLjtP0&e=) ($100 Each)
Comes with 40 bags per unit.

**Overall Facts:**

**5 states** have passed legislation requiring schools to provide free menstrual products to students: California, New York, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Virginia. As of 2021, bills related to period equity have been introduced in 37 states

**20 Places Around the World Where Governments Provide Free Period Products**

Scotland, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, Zambia,

Increasing locations and provinces in France, Canada, and Australia

Recent studies have shown that [about a quarter of menstruating students](https://www.forbes.com/sites/alicebroster/2021/05/20/almost-a-quarter-of-students-struggle-to-access-period-products-new-study-finds/?sh=2ce490a749de) struggle with access to period products, and that many teens still feel a stigma around menstruation. The study mentions specifically, “Latinx, rural, low-income and college students were most impacted. 51% of students said they’d worn period products for longer than recommended and 18% said they felt that Covid-19 had had a direct impact on the schoolwork they were capable of doing during their period.” Additionally, that same study noted, “The State of the Period report found that three in five students rarely or never find free period products in their school bathrooms. 57% said they feel their school doesn’t care about them if they don’t provide free period products in the bathrooms. A clear majority (85%) said they think that public schools should provide free period products.” Offering free menstrual products increases school attendance amongst girls by 2.4%

Schools providing period projects (expanding constantly):

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University – College Station (pilot program)

Texas State University

Texas Women’s University

University of Texas (pilot program)

Sam Houston State

Baylor University

California state universities and community colleges

Yale University

Columbia University

Princeton University

Utah State University

French Universities

Auburn University

Penn State University

Fresno Pacific

University of Iowa

Seton Hall University

Vanderbilt University

University of Cincinnati

Kent State University

Brown University

Ohio University

Stanford University

Otterbein University