

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 28, 2023, as Menstrual Hygiene Day in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days of the year that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 28, 2023, as Menstrual Hygiene Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Menstrual Hygiene Day; and

WHEREAS, Millions of women, girls, and other people who menstruate are stigmatized, excluded, and discriminated against simply because they menstruate; and

WHEREAS, Menstruation is a natural bodily function that women, girls, and people who menstruate experience once per month for decades of their lives; and

WHEREAS, According to a study by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, sixty-four percent of women, girls, and other people who menstruate report experiencing difficulty affording menstrual hygiene products such as pads, tampons, or reusable products like menstrual cups each month; and

WHEREAS, This lack of menstrual hygiene products, known as period poverty, can adversely affect an individual's health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, One in five women, girls, and other people who menstruate report missing work or school as a result of period poverty; and

WHEREAS, Period poverty exacerbates the vicious cycle of forcing women, girls, and other people who menstruate from getting an education, earning an income, and fully and equally participating in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, People experiencing period poverty risk infections by using proxy products, such as socks or toilet paper, or not changing products as often as medically advised; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging the observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day promotes gender equity and equality for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to raise awareness and change the negative social norms surrounding menstrual hygiene across New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 28, 2023, as Menstrual Hygiene Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; United Way of the Greater Capital Region's affinity group, Women United; and Capital Region Menstrual Health Coalition.