

STATE of Menstrual Equity

presented by We Bleed Red: a NC
State student organization

**WE
BLEED
RED.**

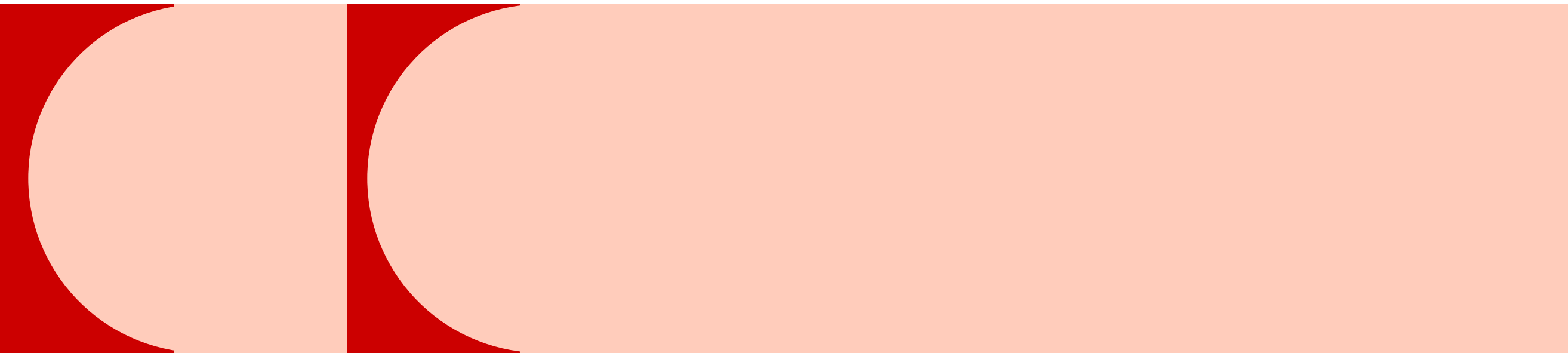


PROBLEM:

LACK OF ACCESSIBLE AND
FREE MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS ON NC STATE'S
CAMPUS

GOAL:

TO ENSURE THAT ALL
MEMBERS OF THE NC
STATE COMMUNITY HAVE
EQUAL ACCESS TO FREE
MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS,
IDEALLY IN ALL
BATHROOMS.





CVS AND TARGET BOTH OFFER MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS BUT THESE PRODUCTS ARE PRICED AT MARK UPS. IF A STUDENT DOESN'T HAVE A CAR, IT CAN BE CHALLENGING FOR THEM TO ACCESS AFFORDABLE PRODUCTS.



CAMPUS WALK RESEARCH

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

We split into teams to cover as much ground as possible. 36 bathrooms in total were surveyed. Buildings were selected off student traffic, number of classes being held, and student feedback. Buildings chosen include:

- Bostian Hall
- Cox Hall
- Caldwell
- Dabney
- Fox Labs
- Park Shops
- Poe Hall
- Riddick
- SAS
- Tompkins
- Winston

FINDINGS:

- Only 8 bathrooms (22.2%) had menstrual product machines with free, readily available products.
- If a bathroom had a machine, there was a high likelihood that the machine was broken or out of product. We found 9 bathrooms (25%) in this condition.
- 2 bathrooms (5.6%) had stocked products but there is a user cost.
- 17 bathrooms (47.2%) had NO machines for menstrual products. --> Survey respondents noted that there was plenty of room for machines in these bathrooms.

Significance

- 01 Access to menstrual products is seen as an afterthought instead of a necessity. Products on campus are in scattered locations, not refilled regularly, and are inaccessible.
- 02 Having menstrual products on campus helps students succeed in the classroom. Many students cited a lack of menstrual products as reasons for missing class, showing up to class late, and lower performance on exams. If a student cannot meet their basic needs, they will struggle to perform at their full academic potential.

COMPLETED ACTIONS

STARTED AS A STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

We Bleed Red was a student government program started by then Vice President, Mia Connell. Mia advocated for student government funding of menstrual products but student government refused because it is a "personal use item". Mia spent 2K of her own money to provide menstrual products and worked with Talley Student Union staff to provide them in both Talley and Witherspoon.

TO A REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATION

We Bleed Red became a registered student organization for greater freedom and the ability to apply for outside funding. A documentary was filmed about their efforts and student government legislation was passed by the student senate, advocating for free menstrual products. Senator Mayce Mattox authors a bill in support of menstrual products being sold in Talley Market.

DATA COLLECTION

A campus walk was conducted to gather data about menstrual product access. We Bleed Red started a partnership with Feed The Pack and raised money to provide free menstrual products. A petition was created with over 900 signatures at the end of last year. We met with Vice Chancellor Doneka Scott and she recommended speaking to faculty senate to garner further support for our efforts.

YOUR ROLE AS FACULTY

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Menstrual products are a basic need, just like food and housing. Consider putting resources for free menstrual products in your syllabus or where students will see it. There are free products at Feed The Pack!

Talk to deans and university administration about the need for free products on campus. Make it known that this is a position that you support through email or phone call.

In the classroom, consider bringing up menstrual equity in discussions about inequality if relevant. If you need resources to do so, please contact us! We'll be happy to help!