

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-Second Session
May 2, 2023**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Michelle Gorelow at 4:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in Room 3142 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [[Exhibit A](#)], the Attendance Roster [[Exhibit B](#)], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Rich DeLong
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman Cameron (C.H.) Miller
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Sabra Newby
Assemblyman Steve Yeager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Melanie Scheible, Senate District No. 9

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Haley Proehl, Committee Policy Analyst
Shuruk Ismail, Committee Manager
Kristi Howard, Committee Secretary
Garrett Kingen, Committee Assistant

Minutes ID: 1030



OTHERS PRESENT:

Samantha Glover, Policy Director and Co-Founder, Red Equity
Elyse Monroy-Marsala, representing Nevada Public Health Association; and Private
Citizen, Sparks, Nevada
Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress

Chair Gorelow:

[Roll was taken. Rules and protocol were reviewed.] Today we are going to be hearing Senate Joint Resolution 5. It urges Congress to expand the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products.

Senate Joint Resolution 5: Urges Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products. (BDR R-980)

Senator Melanie Scheible, Senate District No. 9:

Today I am happy to present to you Senate Joint Resolution 5. Senate Joint Resolution 5 is actually a companion bill to Senate Bill 161. What the two of these bills actually do together is allow Nevadans who are recipients of funds from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to utilize those funds on menstrual products.

I think the best way to explain is to give you background of how I got here, which is that I learned over the course of the interim that period products—pads, tampons, cups, and similar things—are considered luxury items by the federal government. And so, people who receive assistance in the form of SNAP or WIC are not able to use their vouchers or coupons or their Electronic Benefits Transfer cards to purchase these items. I went on a mission to figure out how we could help Nevadans who are already struggling to put food on the table to be able to purchase menstrual products.

Other states have passed bills that would require those state Medicaid or Medicare programs or SNAP or WIC programs to apply for federal waivers to allow them to utilize those funds for menstrual products. As it turns out, the federal government does not have such a waiver and has not approved such a waiver. That is where S.J.R. 5 comes from. Senate Joint Resolution 5 is just what it says: a resolution to Congress asking them to expand the SNAP and WIC programs, and to entertain a bill that would allow for a waiver to be developed underneath the federal waiver program so that states like Nevada could apply for the waiver and allow their constituents to utilize SNAP and WIC funds for period products.

I have Samantha Glover with me via Zoom, whom you may remember from previous sessions. She is a staunch advocate for ending period poverty in Nevada and across the

world. She will speak a little more to how important this is for people across the United States and especially here in Nevada. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Samantha Glover, Policy Director and Co-Founder, Red Equity:

Red Equity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is entirely user-led, focusing on preventing and eliminating period poverty through advocacy, education, and distribution of products. To date we have raised over 150,000 menstrual products and distributed them to menstruators in need, primarily in Nevada and along with our chapters across the country. I have had a lot of firsthand experience on the ground with shelters, teachers, and people from various backgrounds that are experiencing period poverty. What is so important about this piece of legislation is that it really allows and expands access to menstrual products. One in four high school students miss school because they do not have access to menstrual products. Typically, when I am sharing these statistics, it gets followed up by saying that SNAP and WIC do not cover these menstrual products because that is the immediate response that a lot of people assume, Are there not federal programs to prevent period poverty and to promote menstrual equity? The answer is no.

That is why this resolution is so absolutely essential; it impacts everyone from students in high school, middle school, and even elementary school who are missing class, to general menstruators across the board. Since the beginning of the pandemic, one in three women have struggled to afford menstrual products. What this does is provide a social safety net and a bridge to including menstrual products in products that are deemed "necessary." Menstrual products are not a luxury good, and they are as equally, if not more, crucial as other hygiene products that are covered within the realm of federal benefits.

I want to thank Senator Scheible for bringing this forward. On behalf of young people and menstrual equity advocates across the state and across the country, we really commend her on her efforts to promote menstrual equity to also bring these stigmatized conversations to public conversations. That is how we eliminate period poverty: by talking about it and proposing solutions. If anyone has any additional questions about period poverty, or youth advocacy in relation to period poverty, please never hesitate to reach out.

Chair Gorelow:

Committee members, do we have any questions? You mentioned that other hygiene products were covered. Can you tell me what kind of products are covered?

Senator Scheible:

Actually, under SNAP and WIC, other hygiene products are not covered. There are other programs available at the state level that people can utilize. For example, in Nevada there are private organizations that provide diapers to women who qualify for WIC and SNAP. There

are also organizations that will provide period products to them, but they cannot use the vouchers to buy them in the store like they would for infant formula or something like that. There is definitely a gap when it comes to hygiene products. It is not limited to period products.

Chair Gorelow:

I misunderstood that so I am glad I got that clarification. Committee members, are there any other questions? Seeing none, we will go ahead and move into support testimony. Would anyone like to come to the table in support of Senate Joint Resolution 5?

Elyse Monroy-Marsala, representing Nevada Public Health Association; and Private Citizen, Sparks, Nevada:

The Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) strongly supports S.J.R. 5. If I could now take my NPHA hat off, I would like to tell you when I am not running around the halls of the Nevada Legislature on behalf of my clients, I actually help run a food pantry in Sparks. I am on the board of The Community Food Pantry, and this past year we have fed about 40,000 people. We run two programs. One of the first things we were really surprised to hear when we first opened our doors was people came asking for toilet paper. With funds that we fundraise, we now buy toilet paper, adult diapers, tampons, and pads that we keep for people. As Senator Scheible said, there is a gap, and it is clearly a need. I just wanted to validate that is what we see in the community as well. Elyse and the NPHA both urge your support of this important resolution.

Chair Gorelow:

Thank you and thank you for what you do for the community. Seeing no one else in Carson City to testify in support of S.J.R. 5, is there anyone in Las Vegas who would like to testify in support? I am going to assume that there is no one there since I do not have a picture. [There was no one.] We will move onto callers in support of S.J.R. 5.

Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress:

We are in full support of S.J.R. 5 because it will allow individuals to access much-needed menstrual products through existing programs designed to encourage healthy standards for individuals and families. Both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Women, Infants and Children program are designed to ensure individuals have access to healthy foods, formula, and other necessities. It should be no surprise that menstrual products need to be included in these programs as they are a necessary part of dealing with basic bodily functions. Access to menstrual products provides equity as there is an added cost for individuals who have a menstrual cycle. We urge your support of S.J.R. 5.

Chair Gorelow:

There are no other callers in support, so we will close testimony in support of S.J.R. 5. We will move on to opposition. Seeing no one in Carson City, and seeing no one in Las Vegas,

we will move on to callers in opposition to S.J.R. 5. [There were none.] We will close testimony in opposition to S.J.R. 5 and open up testimony in neutral. Seeing no one in Carson City or Las Vegas, we will move to callers in neutral. [There were none.]

That closes our hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 5.

Assemblyman Yeager:

As you all know, we have Assembly Standing Rule 57.4, which requires a 24-hour waiting period to work session a measure. I think, given what we heard today about this resolution and also given what I believe was unanimous support in the Senate, I am waiving the 24-hour rule so that we can work session this out today and hopefully get this resolution to Congress sooner rather than later.

Chair Gorelow:

Let us open up the work session on Senate Joint Resolution 5.

Senate Joint Resolution 5: Urges Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products. (BDR R-980)

Chair Gorelow:

We have heard Senate Joint Resolution 5. I will entertain a motion to do pass S.J.R. 5.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BRITTNEY MILLER MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

[Assemblyman McArthur was assigned the floor statement.]

We will now move to public comment. [There was no public comment.]

Committee members, do you have any comments before we leave? [There were none.] We will meet again on Thursday, May 4, 2023. With that, we are adjourned [at 4:19 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kristi Howard
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.