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**PERIODS DON’T STOP FOR PANDEMICS**

*WILMINGTON, Del,* April 13, 2020 – The Junior League of Wilmington celebrates the CARES Act as a step toward period equity. The $2 trillion stimulus package now makes period products eligible for reimbursement through federal health savings and medical spending accounts. By classifying period supplies a ‘paid for medical care’ rather than taxable ‘luxury’, lawmakers have taken an important step toward making safe, affordable period supplies more readily available.

In previous years, FSAs, HSAs, and other pre-tax accounts were to be used only for certain prescription medicines, drugs and supplies. But now, under section 3702 of the CARES Act,

“. . . amounts paid for menstrual care products shall be treated as paid for medical care” and are therefore eligible expenses. Items to be covered include tampons, pads, liners, cups, sponges, or similar products. In addition, over-the counter medications are now eligible, meaning that painkillers or other remedies for PMS are also included in coverage.

Through its new initiative, **Stand Up. Period**, The Junior League of Wilmington (JLW) is raising awareness of period equity and working towards ensuring affordable access to period supplies. A year’s worth of period supplies costs the average woman about $200, and until now those products weren’t eligible for purchase under federal accounts or programs. JLW and other period equity advocates are optimistic that the CARES Act will help reduce barriers to affordability.

“By including menstrual care products in the CARES Act provisions, the legislature recognizes that these products are necessary,” said Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, former JLW guest speaker and co-founder of Period Equity, a group advocating for accessible, affordable and safe menstrual products. “It is a statement that women’s needs will not be ignored in this time of crisis.”

The provisions in the CARES Act will be applied retroactively to January 1, 2020. Anyone wishing to donate period supplies via the Junior League of Wilmington may email us at jlw@jlwilmington.org or make a purchase through Amazon at [JLW Stand Up Period](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/203SCHNH61X44).

**About the Junior League of Wilmington:**

Founded in 1918, the Junior League of Wilmington Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information about the Junior League of Wilmington, please visit our website [jlwilmington.org](http://www.jlwilmington.org) or call 302.652.0544. The Junior League of Wilmington welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

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