

Women's Center of Greater Lansing



Dear Tax Policy Committee;

As the Executive Director of a local nonprofit supporting low-income women, I urge you to support the exemption of feminine hygiene products from the sales tax. The issue of making medically necessary products more accessible is not a Republican or Democratic issue, and it is not about men versus women – it's an economic and quality of life issue. Access to sanitary products while menstruating is essential for women to lead a healthy life; to regularly attend school, work, personal events; and to fully participate in one's community.

On average, a woman will endure some 456 total periods or roughly 6.25 years of her life. During this time, as part of this natural process, the average women will spend thousands of dollars on feminine hygiene products to ensure a healthy and productive lifestyle. Too many hardworking Michiganders – and too many hardworking Americans – are struggling to make ends meet, and we should not further this burden by taxing the purchase of products necessary for women and their medical well-being.

There are multiple reasons why we need to make feminine hygiene products exempt. Women with low incomes and women of color are disproportionately affected by this sales tax, as they are paying a higher percentage of their income than middle class women. Furthermore, toxic shock is on the rise due to women trying to save extra money by wearing tampons for far too long.

By exempting feminine hygiene products from the sales tax, millions of Michigan women, families, and households will benefit. Should the state no longer tax feminine hygiene products, these dollars would be placed directly back into the pockets of Michigan's residents to spend in our economy.

It's not political to want a better life for women and their families. Political party preferences don't determine if you need a tampon. Axing the tax on these medically necessary products is about quality of life. Period.

Sincerely,



Melina Brann
Executive Director
Women's Center of Greater Lansing