



August 25, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1561 (Garcia and Chang) Sales and use taxes: exemption: sanitary napkins: tampons: menstrual sponges and menstrual cups
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports AB 1561 (Garcia and Chang). AB 1561 would eliminate the sales tax normally imposed on tampons and other feminine hygiene products, providing cheaper access to these necessary products for the millions of women in California.

Women currently pay over \$20 million annually in sales taxes for tampons in California alone. This is a matter of gender inequality as these products are a necessity for women while other necessities for both genders are not similarly taxed (e.g., medical equipment and prescriptions). Further, the tax on tampons disproportionately affects women with lower incomes, including teens, since it is a higher percentage of their total income.

AB 1561 will reduce cost barriers to California women and girls most in need of affordable access to a basic commodity that is vital for the healthy development of children. Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign AB 1561 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership