



December 14, 2016

The Honorable Cristina Garcia
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Suite 2013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 9 (Garcia) Sales and use taxes: exemption: sanitary napkins: tampons: menstrual sponges and menstrual cups
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports AB 9 (Garcia), a bill that would eliminate the sales tax normally imposed on tampons and other feminine hygiene products. AB 9 would provide expanded 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. These products are a necessity for women while other necessities for both genders are not similarly taxed (e.g., medical equipment and prescriptions), making this a matter of gender equality. Furthermore, the tax on tampons disproportionately affects women with lower incomes, including teens, since it is a higher percentage of their total income.

This legislation would reduce cost barriers to California women and girls in need of affordable access to a basic commodity that is vital for the healthy development of children. California pediatricians support AB 9 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,

Kris Calvin

Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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