

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Cristina Garcia
State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0058

RE: AB-367 Menstrual products
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 367, as introduced on February 1, 2021, which would enact the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021, requiring public schools serving children in any combination of grades 6 to grade 12, California State University, and each community college district, to keep at least 50% of campus restrooms stocked with free menstrual products. It would also encourage the Regents of the University of California, as well as private universities, colleges, and institutions of higher learning, to do the same.

A 1989 Illinois Supreme Court ruling defined menstrual products as a clinical need. Yet, many girls and women struggle to afford feminine hygiene products. The 2019 “State of the Period” survey found that 1 in 5 teens have struggled to afford period products or were not able to purchase them at all.¹ More than 4 in 5 teens have either missed class time or know a classmate who missed class time because they did not have access to period products, exacerbating already existing issues caused by poverty. Sixty-one percent have worn a tampon or pad for more than 4 hours because they did not have enough access to period products - a practice that puts teens at risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome and infection.² Death from Toxic Shock Syndrome occurs more frequently among Asian, African-American, and Hispanic women.³

Supplying menstrual products in schools would mean California girls and women would not have to miss school or work due to period poverty and would protect their physical and emotional health. AAP-CA strongly supports AB 367. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Nancy Graff, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹ https://thepolicyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/State-of-the-Period-white-paper_Thinx_PERIOD.pdf

² Berger, S. et al. Menstrual toxic shock syndrome: case report and systematic review of the literature. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 19, e313–e321 (2019).

³ Strom, M. A., Hsu, D. Y. & Silverberg, J. I. Prevalence, comorbidities and mortality of toxic shock syndrome in children and adults in the USA. *Microbiology and Immunology* 61, 463–473 (2017).