



California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)
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CHILDREN LEARNING, PARENTS EARNING, COMMUNITIES GROWING

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 260 (Menjivar) CalWORKs Menstrual Equity Act of 2023 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Alvarado-Gil:

On behalf of the California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA), I am writing to express our **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 260: CalWORKs Menstrual Equity Act of 2023**, authored by Senator Menjivar. SB 260 will expand CalWORKs services to include \$20 of monthly cash assistance for the purchasing of menstrual products.

Since 1978, CAPPA has given a voice to community-based programs specifically created to work with income eligible families facing a host of poverty related issues. Originally, these community-based public and private nonprofits were created to support the parental choice of parents to access child care that not only supported their work needs but also provided the critical nurturing and learning needs of children starting at birth.

These programs known as Alternative Payment Programs (APPs) evolved from a pilot study wherein the desired outcome was to promote parental choice of low-income families to secure subsidized child care to a current system where greater family needs are being helped. Today, in all 58 counties APPs exist as a community-based safety net that works with income eligible parents to secure subsidy vouchers that support THEIR choice in purchasing stable, affordable and accessible child care, Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), transportation, housing, mental and health care, home visiting, immigration, food, jobs, foster care bridge, trauma informed care and more. Further, whenever an emergency is declared such as COVID or a fire, these community programs are on the front lines helping distribute critical need items such as food, water, personal protective equipment or providing child care access for essential workers.

In California, period poverty continues to be a crisis for low-income menstruators. According to data from the Alliance for Period Supplies, 1 in 7 women and girls between ages 12-44 live below the federal poverty line. One-third of low-income women report missing work, school, or similar commitments due to lack of period supplies. This similarly affects menstruators who do not identify as women. Moreover, period poverty poses disproportional consequences to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color: 1 in 4 Black and Latinx menstruators report difficulty with affording menstrual products.

This bill would mitigate California's period poverty by providing low-income people who are recipients of CalWORKs with the necessary materials to support their menstrual cycles. SB 260 will uplift our poorest families by giving them an avenue to access menstrual products, which they may otherwise not be able to afford. For these reasons, **CAPPA is pleased to SUPPORT SB 260.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denyne Micheletti Colburn".

Denyne Micheletti Colburn, CEO
CAPPA