



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

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Bill Dodd
Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 59 (Skinner) Equity, Period – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Dodd:

On behalf of the California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA), I am writing to express our **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 59: Equity, Period** authored by Senator Skinner. SB 59 will ensure equitable access to period products across California by requiring free period products in state owned or leased buildings, buildings where a state funded safety net program is administered, and hospitals that receive state funding.

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 understanding the cost associated with period products, SB 59 will allow our poorest families one more avenue to accessing and affording them. It will do this by requiring that free period products be offered in all women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms and in at least one men's restroom in 1) all state or state-leased buildings; 2) all buildings where state-funded safety-net programs are administered; and 3) all hospitals that receive state funding.

The simple act of ensuring access to period products will give our poorest families one less thing to stress and worry about so that they can focus on other necessities. For these reasons, CAPPA is pleased to **SUPPORT** SB 59.

Sincerely,

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

Denyne Micheletti Colburn, CEO
CAPPA