

Assembly Bill 367

Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D – 58)

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 367, the Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021, would make access to menstrual products a right and require specific entities to make these products available free of charge to all individuals in need of the product no matter the environment. The measure would require both Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools, as well as community colleges, college campuses (CSU/UC), and state/local municipal buildings to stock its public restrooms with free menstrual products. Specifically, AB 367 would:

- (1)** Enact the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021, requiring a public school maintaining any combination of classes from grades 6 to 12, to stock at least 50% of the school's restrooms with free menstrual products at all times;
- (2)** Requires the California State University and each community college district, and encourages the Regents of the University of California and private universities, colleges, and institutions of higher learning, to stock 50% of all campus restrooms with free menstrual products at all times;
- (3)** Finally, requires a public agency to stock 50% of all restrooms that are open to the public or used by employees with free menstrual products at all times.

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

On November 24, 2020, Scotland became the first government in the world to make access to menstrual products a right and required government to provide these products to anyone who needs them. By passing this law, Scotland affirmed that no one in society should

have to suffer the indignity of not having the means to meet their basic needs and that being able to access menstrual products is a fundamental to equality and dignity.

The cost of menstrual products is not the only barrier or problematic issue many individuals who menstruate face every month. A variety of factors contributes to the pain, unnecessary shame, and difficult experiences many are forced to confront when their period arrives. Some individuals who struggle during their period deal with the reality of limited resources, no home, abusive relationships, and underlying health conditions. Our transgender community also experiences trouble, painful shame, and multiple barriers when accessing menstrual products. This is unacceptable and we should not tolerate these conditions and environments that could be easily changed.

SOLUTION

Ensuring free, easy access to menstrual products for everyone will lead California to ensuring personal health and basic human dignity is a priority for our state.

Our biology doesn't always send an advanced warning when we're about to start menstruating, which often means people who menstruate have to stop whatever they're doing and deal with a period. Often periods arrive at inconvenient times. They can surprise us during an important midterm, while playing with our children at a park, sitting in a lobby waiting to interview for a job, shopping at the grocery store, or even standing on the Assembly Floor presenting an important piece of legislation. Having regular access to these products without charge would

mean a period would not prevent us from being productive members of society, and would alleviate the anxiety of trying to find a product when out in public.

By making menstrual products a right and more accessible, AB 367 sends a strong signal to half the population that menstruate that in California, they are supported in this most basic way, that their biology should not be a barrier to being present in school, college, the office, outdoors in state parks, and our State and local municipal buildings. The act of providing free and accessible menstrual products to anyone who needs them sends a powerful message that their biology need not be burdensome.

STATUS

Introduced – February 1, 2021

Double referred to **Assembly Education Committee** and **Assembly Higher Education Committee**

Assembly Education Committee – set for hearing: **March 24, 2021**

SUPPORT

- California Association of Student Councils (CASC) (Sponsors)
- IGNITE
- Free the Period
- PERIOD. The Menstrual Movement
- The Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy, Division of Equity & Social Justice
- ACLU of California
- Black Women for Wellness
- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
- NARAL Pro-Choice California
- Alliance for Girls
- Alliance for Period Supplies
- National Diaper Bank Network

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