

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators
FROM: Representative Melissa Sargent
DATE: October 27, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsorship of the Hygiene Product Accessibility Act
DEADLINE: Friday, November 10, 2017

I am introducing the Hygiene Product Accessibility Act, which aims to promote accessibility to tampons, sanitary pads, and other hygiene products used for menstruation.

Menstruation has long been highly stigmatized around the world despite being a natural bodily function that is experienced at one time or another by 50% of the world's population. Byproducts of this stigma and underrepresentation have been laws, norms, and practices that inherently financially penalize menstruation—and women, specifically—and decrease accessibility to hygiene products like tampons and sanitary pads.

Hygiene products are not optional; they're necessities. Hygiene products are also unique necessities in that no analogous, sex-based sales tax exists on any other good, and no analogous hygiene need exists.

The Hygiene Product Accessibility Act attempts to address these issues via two separate pieces of legislation:

1. **LRB-0272/2** requires tampons and sanitary napkins to be available at no charge in restroom facilities of buildings owned, leased, or occupied by the state or political subdivisions.
2. **LRB-4682/1** creates a sales and use tax exemption for hygiene products in Wisconsin. Hygiene products such as tampons and sanitary pads are not currently exempt under Wisconsin's sales tax, and are taxed at the state sales and use tax rate of 5%, with the potential for additional, locally-imposed sales and use taxes on the purchase price.

If you would like to co-sponsor the Hygiene Product Accessibility Act, please contact Representative Sargent's Office at 266-0960 or Rep.Sargent@legis.wi.gov by 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2017. Co-sponsors will be signed onto both bills unless otherwise directed.