

4th March 2024

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for SB435, which would remove taxes from diapers and menstrual products. As a person who oversees services for thousands of families with young babies, I believe that such a move would not only be socially just but also essential for promoting public health and well-being.

First and foremost, diapers are a necessity for infants and toddlers, and menstrual products are a basic requirement for people who menstruate. These are not luxury items but rather vital products that ensure the health, hygiene, and dignity of individuals across all walks of life. By taxing these products, we are effectively placing an additional financial burden on those who can least afford it, including low-income families and individuals.

The financial strain imposed by such taxes can have profound consequences. For struggling families, the cost of diapers and menstrual products can become a significant portion of their budget, forcing them to make difficult choices between purchasing these essentials or meeting other basic needs such as food and shelter. This is an unacceptable situation that perpetuates inequality and exacerbates poverty.

In light of these considerations, I urge you to take action to remove taxes from diapers and menstrual products. Doing so would not only promote fairness and equality but also demonstrate a commitment to public health and social justice. It is time to recognize these products for what they truly are: essential items that should be accessible to all, regardless of income or gender. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sapphire Garcia-Lies

Executive Director