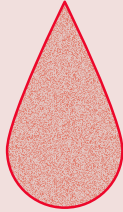




An Act to Increase Access to Menstrual Products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters and Public Schools (S.2491 and H.534)

Lead Sponsors Senators Jehlen and Representatives Barber, Livingstone

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the world menstruates.

MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS ARE ESSENTIAL



The I AM bill would ensure access to free menstrual products, without stigma, to all menstruating individuals in *all* public schools, homeless shelters, prisons and county jails.



Non-menstruating people go into a bathroom expecting their basic bodily needs to be met – this is not the case for menstruators.



No one should have to choose between food, a roof over their head, their education, and access to menstrual products. Yet every day in Massachusetts, menstruators are forced to make exactly that choice.

BY ENDING PERIOD POVERTY WE'RE TACKLING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY & HEALTH INEQUALITY



Approximately 1 out of 7 children in MA is living in poverty and struggles to pay for menstrual products.



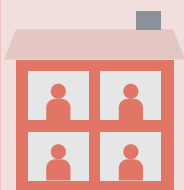
The federal government does not allow food stamps to be used to pay for menstrual products.



Inability to access menstrual products affects students' class attendance and productivity. Over half of MA school nurses reported seeing students miss class to get menstrual products.



Restricted access to menstrual products means that they can be used as bargaining chips and tools of control.



In 2019, 20,000+ people were homeless in Massachusetts – up 14% since 2018. Since the pandemic, we know the state of homelessness is even more dire.



Massachusetts shelters report menstrual products are among the least donated items to homeless shelters.

PERIODS DON'T STOP FOR PANDEMICS. IN FACT, PERIOD POVERTY HAS GOTTEN WORSE.



AFT MA, Arlington Street Church (Unitarian Universalist), Boston, Asian Women for Health, Beacon Health, Beverly Public Schools, Black and Pink MA, Boston College Law School If/When/How: Law Students for Reproductive Justice, Boston GLOW, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Schools Office of Health and Wellness, Boston Student Advisory Council, Boston Women's Fund, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Cambridge Women's Center, Cambridge Women's Commission, Cape Cod Women for Change, Casa Myrna Vazquez, Curry College Feminist United, Days for Girls, Dignity Matters, Eliham Girlchild Charity House, Eos Advocacy Fund, Father bills and mainspring, Free. Hingham, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Harbour House, Hope & Comfort, Inc. , HubSpot, Independence House, Inc, Jane Doe Inc. , the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Love Your Menses, MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth, MA Commission on the Status of Women, MAPA Translations, Massachusetts Medical Society Women's Health Committee, Massachusetts Mutual Aid Society, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, MassEquality, Medicina de Mujer, MME Harvard, Mujeres Aliadas, Mystic Valley Action for Choice, NASW-MA, National Women's Law Center, Our Bodies Ourselves, Partners in Sex Education, Period Activists at 'Deis (PAD), Period Project at Boston University School of Public Health, PERIOD@BU, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, Poor People's United Fund, Pregnancy and Postpartum PT, Resilient Sisterhood Project, Reproductive Equity Now, She+ Geeks Out, Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, Student Alliance for Prison Reform at Northeastern University, The School Superintendent Association of MA, The Women's Fund of Southeastern MA, TOP, the organic project, Transition House, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Upper Cape Women's Coalition, Westford Ambassador Girl Scout Troop 60560 (high school seniors), Whose Corner is it Anyway, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, Women's Fund of Western MA, YW Boston, YWCA Cambridge, YWCA Southeastern MA



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