

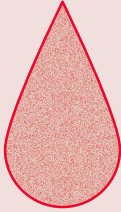


An Act to Increase Access to Menstrual Products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters and Public Schools (H.534 & S.1381)

Lead Sponsors Senators Jehlen and Representatives Barber, Livingstone

1/2

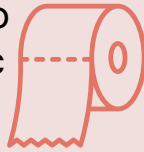
the world
menstruates.



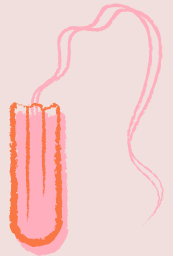
**MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS ARE
ESSENTIAL**



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



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.



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.

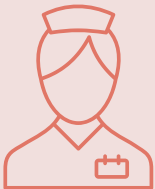
BY ENDING PERIOD POVERTY WE'RE TACKLING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY & HEALTH INEQUALITY



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



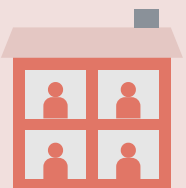
The federal government does not allow food stamps to be used to pay for menstrual products.



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.**



A Baby Center, AFT MA, Arlington Street Church, 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 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, Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Harbor House, Hope & Comfort, Inc. HubSpot Independence House, Inc, Jane Doe Inc. , the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth, MA Commission on the Status of Women, MAPA Translations, Massachusetts Medical Society Women's Health Committee, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Massachusetts Mutual Aid Society, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, MassEquality, MA League of Women Voters 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 Project at Boston University School of Public Health, PERIOD@Brandeis, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, Poor People's United Fund, Pregnancy and Postpartum PT, Resilient Sisterhood Project, SAFE at Clark University, Reproductive Equity Now, She+ Geeks Out, Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, Student Alliance for Prison Reform at Northeastern University, The Network/La Red, 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, Who's Corner is it Anyways?, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Boston Branch, YW Boston, YWCA Cambridge, YWCA Southeastern MA



An Act to Increase Access to Menstrual Products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters and Public Schools (H.2354 & S.1445)