



VPLC

Virginia Poverty
Law Center



ALLIANCE FOR
PERIOD SUPPLIES

SB 715 (McClellan): Feminine Hygiene Product Stipend

Summary

This bill will provide a \$10 stipend for menstruators ages 10-55 who are enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) assistance unit. Menstruators who fall outside this age range could be eligible for the stipend with a physician's note.

Background

While it is not something that many people consider, period poverty affects menstruators across Virginia. 1 in 4 menstruators has struggled to purchase enough feminine hygiene products. Without a sufficient supply of products, women and girls face increased risk for infection and additional barriers to academic and economic success.

In fact, 1 in 5 menstruators miss at least a day of school or work each month due to a lack of feminine hygiene products. This can mean that girls fall behind in school or that women are trapped in a vicious poverty spiral as they lose wages and it becomes even more difficult to purchase necessary supplies.

Last year, Virginia recognized the necessity of feminine hygiene products and passed legislation to reduce the sales tax on them to 2.5%. While this was an important step in the right direction, we have to do more to support menstruators in achieving their potential and thriving.

Solution

SB 715 provides menstruators participating in TANF with the resources they need to simply meet their bodily needs. By providing a \$10 stipend for feminine hygiene products, this legislation will ensure that girls and women have the same opportunities to succeed as those who do not need to purchase menstrual supplies.

This bill will remove barriers for over 10,000 girls attending school and women going to work who are currently participating. Additionally, it will reduce the risk of infection faced by menstruators who are trying to stretch their limited supply of products. SB 715 is important legislation that will make a big difference for Virginians who are working hard to survive and thrive.

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