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June 22, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for AB 10 (Garcia) Feminine Hygiene Products - Access in Schools

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of AB 10, which would increase access to menstrual products for students in California's public schools.

California presently does not require schools provide feminine hygiene products to students (although it does require prisons to provide feminine hygiene products to inmates). Current law already requires K-12 schools to ensure that every restroom is maintained and cleaned regularly, and is fully operational and stocked with toilet paper, soap and paper towels or hand dryers, so adding feminine hygiene products would not be a significant burden on schools.

Lack of access to feminine hygiene products can keep students from attending school, distract them from their studies, and keep them from participating in sports or other extracurricular activities. Students of low income are the most likely to experience these negative effects.

AB 10 would require public schools enrolling pupils in grades 6 to 12 that are eligible for Title I funding to stock at least 50% of the school's restrooms with feminine hygiene products at no charge. Feminine hygiene products are a necessity for the health, well-being and full academic participation of those who menstruate. No student should ever worry about access to tampons or sanitary pads depriving them of a full education. AB 10 would support all pupils in reaching their full potential, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes the importance of ensuring all students have access to necessary hygiene products, regardless of income.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 10.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director

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