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Betsy Butler

August 8, 2016

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1561 (Garcia) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), I am writing in support of AB 1561 (Garcia), which would end the tax on feminine hygiene products. Currently, California law exempts health items like medical identification tags and even Viagra from taxation but does not exempt tampons and sanitary pads. Ending the tax on these necessary products is a crucial step toward bringing gender equity to California's tax code.

Women in California pay over \$20 million annually in taxes on feminine hygiene products. Menstrual cycles are not a choice, and women should not be unfairly targeted for needing items to maintain their health and well-being. The taxation of these basic necessities also disproportionately impacts poor and working class women.

CWLC applauds California's leadership in protecting women's rights through measures such as paid family leave and pay equity laws. California should continue to be at the forefront of improving conditions for women by removing the tax on feminine hygiene products.

Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. A vital part of our mission is to ensure that women and children have access to resources crucial to leading healthy lives.

The California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 1561, which will increase gender equity and promote health and economic justice by making feminine hygiene products more affordable and accessible for all women.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director