



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Lansing Branch

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NAACP Supports Bills Ending Taxes on Feminine Hygiene Products *House Bills would exempt feminine products from sales and use taxes*

LANSING – The Lansing Branch NAACP strongly encourages the state legislature to pass House Bills 5267 and 4270, which would eliminate the sales and use taxes on feminine hygiene products. The bills recently passed unanimously out of the State House of Representatives Tax Policy committee chaired by Rep. Matt Hall and is expected to soon head to the entire House for a vote. The measures would have to pass the full House and Senate before they are enacted into law.

If made into law, the House bills will not only exempt feminine hygiene products from taxes, but they will increase access and provide equity for women with low incomes and women of color since they are disproportionately affected by sales and use taxes.

“This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue and it is not about men versus women,” said Fonda Brewer, Chair of the Lansing Branch Women in NAACP (WIN). “It’s an economic and quality of life issue. Access to sanitary products while menstruating is essential for women to lead a healthy life; to regularly attend school, work, personal events; and to fully participate in one’s community.”

The bills define feminine hygiene products as "tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar tangible personal property designed for feminine hygiene in connection with the human menstrual cycle." Rep. Tenesha Yancey, D-Detroit, is the lead sponsor of HB 4270, which would exempt the products from use tax. State Rep. Bryan Posthumus, R-Oakfield Township, is the sponsor for HB 5267, a measure to exempt these products from sales tax.

By exempting these medically necessary products from the sales tax, it will eliminate an unfair tax burden that falls on women. If the state no longer tax feminine hygiene products, those dollars would be placed directly back into the pockets of Michigan’s residents to spend in our economy.

“It’s not political to want a better life for women and their families,” said Brewer. “Political party preferences don’t determine if you need a tampon. Exempting the tax on these products is about quality of life and may reduce potential health risks associated with extended use of these products.”

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation.

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