California Nurses Association

November 6 2026

Members of the California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 10 - Support If Amended

Dear Senator Pro Tempore Limon and Senate Members,

We are writing on behalf of the California Nurses Association to declare that our organization would proudly support this bill, if it is amended.

SB 10: Equitable Access to Sanitary Essentials Act seeks to allow CalFresh recipients to use benefits for menstrual hygiene products. Eligible products include menstrual pads, tampons, menstrual cups and discs, panty liners, period underwear, and other qualifying menstrual products.

The California Department of Social Services would seek federal authorization within 90 days of the provisional effective date, and purchasing eligibility would only take effect after this is granted.

In research conducted by Massengale et al., *Breaking the period product insecurity cycle*, selected individuals were those receiving supplies from a period product bank. Surveyed participants were shown to miss approximately 7.8 days of activities, appointments, work, or school per year, due to insufficient menstrual products. Upon providing access to supplies, follow-up showed an improvement of only approximately 1.2 days missed per year.

We respectfully request the amendment of establishing an alternative funding mechanism if federal SNAP authorization is unavailable. This bill would greatly benefit from a state-funded menstrual product assistance program, if federal SNAP is denied or unavailable.

The USDA currently excludes menstrual products and other hygiene items from SNAP-eligible purchases and federal authorization for this proposed expansion is not guaranteed. Thus, if no alternate funding is provided, this bill's expanded purchasing provision cannot take effect.

Furthermore, creating an alternate funding from SNAP benefits reduces the need to rely on existing federal food benefits, and prevents constituents from choosing between food and menstrual products.

We also respectfully ask to make corrections to the bill that are inaccurate.

The bill states that the ability to purchase menstrual products using tax-advantaged healthcare accounts ended when the public health emergency ended, however, IRS guidance continues recognizing menstrual care products as eligible HSA/FSA expenses.

In Section 3(b), the bill refers to the "Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance" and "Legislative Bill Drafting Commission," both of which are drawn from New York state administrative framework. This bill should draw from its respective California agencies that are responsible for implementation and legislation.

The California Nurses Association strongly urges you to amend and support SB 10.

Sincerely,



Damien Purisima (He/him) - Lobbyist
California Nurses Association