



# alliance for **PERIOD** supplies

## H.R. 10230 - Good Samaritan Menstrual Products Act Fact Sheet

### **Period Poverty**

Each month, millions of menstruators struggle to afford the period supplies that they need to fully participate in daily life. In fact, two in five women report being unable to secure enough period supplies to meet their needs.<sup>1</sup> This creates huge barriers for menstruators to meet their full potential. One in four women report missing activities such as school because of insufficient access to period supplies.<sup>2</sup> Period poverty exacerbates the vicious cycle of poverty by forcing menstruators to withdraw from daily life, losing pay or missing educational opportunities, or risk infections by using proxy products – such as socks or toilet paper – or not changing products as often as needed.

### **The Problem**

The Alliance for Period Supplies and our community-based allied programs have partnered with U by Kotex to distribute more than 70 million period products to people who menstruate in need since 2018. While substantial, these donated products do not come close to meeting all of the needs in our communities.

Furthermore, the vast majority of these products are pads and liners. Tampons are considered a “Class 2” medical product, and thus manufacturers will not donate these products due to liability concerns.<sup>3</sup> When surveyed about their period product preferences, 40% of menstruators receiving products from Alliance for Period Supplies period supply banks indicated a preference for tampons, with 10% of recipients preferring to use tampons exclusively.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, liability concerns, even for products donated in good faith, limit both the supply of available period products and menstruators’ choices in how they meet their basic needs.

### **The Solution**

The Good Samaritan Menstrual Products Act H.R. 10230 introduced by Congresswoman Grace Meng will provide “Good Samaritan” liability protection for donated period supplies including pads, tampons, liners, cups and period underwear. Passing this legislation will enable manufacturers, retailers, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to donate and distribute all types of period supplies in good faith without fear of frivolous lawsuits. Modeled after the liability protection given to donated food products, this legislation will increase the amount and type of donated product available to support menstruators in need with the dignity that they deserve. Currently, only 5 states have passed this legislation so far including Tennessee, Maine, and Rhode Island, Texas, and Illinois. This bill would ensure all states have the protection, allowing for increased donations across the country.

### **Contact**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/U\\_by\\_Kotex\\_Period\\_Poverty\\_-\\_PPAW\\_Data\\_Set.pdf](https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/U_by_Kotex_Period_Poverty_-_PPAW_Data_Set.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://period.org/uploads/SOTP-2023.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpd/classification.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/17455057241267104>