



March 10, 2017
Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 9: Gender Neutral Tax Code: No Tax on Tampons

Dear Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas,

The Fem Dems of Sacramento (Fem Dems) is a local Democratic club chartered through the Democratic Party of Sacramento County and is comprised of more than 2,000 supporters throughout the Sacramento Region. It is the mission of the Fem Dems to bring the principles of inclusion, equality, and diversity to the forefront of democracy. We do this by advocating for representative equity and the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes.

It is through the tenants of our mission that the Fem Dems is pleased to support AB 9, a bill to end a longstanding tax on women in California in order to make our tax code at state and local levels gender neutral. In 2016 New York, Connecticut, and Illinois ended this unfair practice of gender discrimination by joining five other states (and Canada) to eliminate the tax on menstrual products. While California initially led the way, a similar bill was vetoed in our state.

The average woman has over 450 periods over her lifetime and a single box of tampons costs \$7 at common retailers. The women of California pay over \$20 million for taxes on tampons and sanitary napkins each year. It is important that the tax changes made through this bill will end gender discrimination at all levels of government in California. Exemptions to this bill at local levels are unacceptable and will continue to disparately affect women in California.

California currently exempts several “necessities of life” from sales tax including groceries and medicine. California’s tax code exempts health items like walkers and prescription medication, including Viagra. Tampons and sanitary napkins are not exempt even though women do not have the choice to ignore their periods and are far from being luxuries.

We strongly support this important legislation and are eager to see these changes implemented at all levels of California government. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (916) 342-3609 or mary@femdems.org.

Sincerely,
Mary McCune, President
Fem Dems of Sacramento

Cc: Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

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