



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michelle Hinchey

## Hinchey Bill to Make Menstrual Products Free at SUNY and CUNY Signed into Law

MICHELLE HINCHEY August 27, 2024



**KINGSTON, NY** – Senator Michelle Hinchey announced today that her bill ([S5910B](#)) requiring public colleges and universities to provide free menstrual products in campus restrooms was signed into law on Monday by Governor Hochul in celebration of Women’s Equality Day.

**Senator Michelle Hinchey** said, “Menstrual products are a fundamental health necessity, and no one should be held back in school, work, or life because they can’t afford or access them. I’m incredibly proud that our bill making menstrual products available for free in all SUNY and CUNY restrooms has been signed into law. This legislation is a huge step forward in our fight to end

period poverty, reduce financial stress and stigma often surrounding menstruation, and bring us closer to true equity and dignity for people who menstruate. I thank Governor Hochul for signing this important legislation on Women’s Equality Day.”

A 2023 survey found that **1 in 5 college students** has faced period poverty (a global and local health issue defined by inadequate access, education, and the inability to afford safe menstrual products). **Almost 50%** of college students surveyed have struggled to obtain menstrual supplies due to cost. Since 2019, the cost of pads and tampons has risen sharply, outpacing inflation and increasing financial strain on those who need them. As of July 2024, the average price of a package of tampons in the U.S. is up 36% to \$8.29, and pads have risen 41% to \$6.50, with menstrual product prices now surpassing food price inflation, according to the **Wall Street Journal**.

Hinchey has been a strong advocate for women’s health and menstrual equity, sponsoring related legislation, like one to provide free menstrual products in all New York State emergency housing, including for victims of domestic violence (S6573), which is law. Another, which remains a priority for the 2025 State Legislative Session, would provide free access to menstrual products in state-owned buildings (S9184A).

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2023-S5910B

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- Introduced
- ◦ In Committee Assembly

- In Committee Senate
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
- On Floor Calendar Senate
- ◦ Passed Assembly
- Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Requires menstrual products in public colleges and universities

March 22, 2023

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by Michelle Hinchey

Do you support this bill?