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Title: Reclassification of Feminine Products as Medical Needs
Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation
Original Author: Dee Federico
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: Disapproved.

Whereas, the State of Michigan provides its low-income families of all age groups with food assistance in the form of food stamps (a.k.a. Michigan Bridge Card), and

Whereas, patients have to prove low-income status for eligibility to qualify for the card, and

Whereas, Michigan Department of Human Services workers and Social Security Office workers validate eligibility and income periodically for updating Bridge Card qualification and distribution, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan’s population is made up of 50.9% women¹, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan’s low-income, or poverty level population totals 14.8%¹, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan’s population of persons under 18 years of age is 23.7%¹, and

Whereas, the Michigan Food Assistance benefit² states “You cannot buy nonfood items such as soap, pet food, tobacco, paper products, alcoholic beverages, hot foods ready to eat, lunch counter items or food to be eaten in the store or vitamins or medicines,” and

Whereas, women are being denied the use of Bridge Card resources to purchase necessary feminine sanitary products as they are currently classified as paper products, a denied item for purchase using a Bridge Card; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS ask the Michigan Department of Human Services to reclassify tampons and sanitary napkins as medical goods versus paper products², allowing low-income women to utilize food stamp/Bridge Card resources for the purchase of these necessary items.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan Quick Facts
² State of Michigan, Department of Human Services publication