



JAY D. LIVINGSTONE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
8TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

Committees:
Vice Chair, Public Service
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
Municipalities and Regional Government
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June 7, 2021

Hon. Marjorie Decker, House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. Joanne Comerford, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H2354 An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools

Dear Chair Decker and Chair Comerford,

I write to you today advocating for a piece of legislation that I have filed to address the lack of access to menstrual products: H2354, *An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools*. The average menstruating person has about 456 menstrual cycles and will have to spend about \$2,216 on disposable menstrual products over a lifetime, so easy access to clean menstrual products is incredibly important for keeping people safe.

One in seven children in Massachusetts is living in poverty, and over 20,000 individuals are homeless with limited access to menstrual products. A lack of access to menstrual products can force people to use unhygienic substitutes. Additionally, inability to access menstrual products affects students' class attendance and productivity, adding to educational inequality.

H2354 would require that disposable menstrual products be made available to all who menstruate and attend public school, are in prison or are in a homeless shelter. I believe that this is an important step to maintaining access to clean hygiene for our communities and keeping everyone safe. I hope that the committee will report the bill out favorably.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Livingstone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jay Livingstone
State Representative
8th Suffolk District