**BACKGROUND**

The components that are contained within Menstrual Products (tampons, pads, cups, disks, sponges, and menstrual underwear) are unknown to consumers, possibly leading to adverse health effects.

Manufacturers often add chemical additives such as lubricants, odor-absorbing compounds, fragrances, and antibacterial compounds to menstrual products. However, due to the regulatory classification of medical devices, there is no requirement to disclose those additives.

Some examples of additives include; colorants, Polypropylene, Acetone, dioxins, PFAS/PFOA undisclosed fragrance chemicals, and undisclosed antimicrobial additives.

Menstrual Products are intended for use in or on a sensitive part of a woman's body, and people should have the right to know the ingredients.

**CURRENT LAW**

California currently has no labeling requirements for Menstrual Products (tampons, pads, cups, disks, sponges, and menstrual underwear). However, under Federal Law, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates tampons, cups, disks, and sponges as medical devices because they are used internally and therefore under FDA guidelines, very basic labeling is required.

**THIS BILL**

Assembly Bill 1989 will protect people’s health by requiring the disclosure of all ingredients in menstrual products including tampons, pads, cups, disks, sponges, and menstrual underwear. It is imperative that consumers have a right to know what is in the products they will be using for over 40 years of their life, in order to protect their health.

The goal with this legislation is to increase the awareness of the toxic chemicals currently in our menstrual products. It is troubling at best to learn that products people rely on contain phthalates, bisphenols, parabens, and PFAS/PFOA, which all have been found to be harmful to human health. Periods are not a luxury and people should have the knowledge to make safer choices.

**STATUS**

Introduced: 2-14-2020

Assembly Health Committee

Assembly ESTM Committee

**SUPPORT**

A Voice for Choice Advocacy

City of West Hollywood

California Health Coalition Advocacy

Empower Family California

Educate Advocate

**OPPOSITION**

None

**STAFF CONTACT**

**Ashley Labar**

Chief of Staff

Ashley.Labar@asm.ca.gov

Office of Assemblymember Cristina Garcia

916-319-2058