

SAIRC Legislative Priorities **DRAFT**

Menstrual Care Products

Menstrual products are something required for every person with a uterus and are still expensive, heavily-taxed as a luxury item and not readily available to all. Lack of access to these products unfairly burdens impoverished or homeless people with uteruses in our communities. Even those who can afford the products should not be forced to pay taxes on these necessities. See also that the term “feminine hygiene product” isn’t appropriate because having a uterus is not synonymous to being a female. People who do not identify as female experience menstrual bleeding and should not have to be misgendered when gaining access to these products.

Western Washington University strongly recommends:

- Supporting the amendment of HB 1053 to be more inclusive by changing “feminine hygiene products” to “menstrual products”. Once this has been done, support the passage of HB 1053, which eliminates the undue burden of taxes for those who can afford menstrual products.
- Requiring free menstrual products on college campuses to lessen the financial burden on students.
- Mandate non-gendered discussion of menstruation in K-12 sexual education curriculum.

Expanded Rights for People with Mental Illnesses

Western is concerned with the lack of prioritization of mental illness and behavioral disorders.. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), LGBTQ young people are more than twice as likely to feel suicidal, and over four times as likely to attempt suicide, compared to heterosexual youth. Additionally, one third of transgender youth have seriously considered suicide. Groups such as such as veterans, people of color, people with disabilities, and womxn are also disproportionately burdened with mental health disorders. Without providing more resources, we are knowingly increasing the hardships on those already struggling.

Western strongly recommends:

- Supporting SB 5053, 5054, 5055, and 5056, all of which either promote more resources for people with mental illnesses or for those going into the behavioral health field, which will directly affect the population facing mental illnesses in the future.
- Allocate more resources to college campuses statewide, including but not limited to: requiring detailed training in various types of mental illnesses, education on which groups are disproportionately affected, and hiring counselors representative of said groups.
- Provide more funding to college counseling centers, which are overworked and often take weeks, if not months, to get into. Expand staff in order to ease the burden on students suffering from mental health crises and ensure that their needs are met in an appropriate amount of time.