



Ramirez introduces bill to provide menstrual products to incarcerated women



By: John Heinis/Hudson County View

Assemblywoman Jessica Ramirez (D-32) has introduced a bill that would provide menstrual products to incarcerated women, which was brought before the Assembly Community Development and Women’s Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

For women with issues such as PCOS, endometriosis, or even women with just a heavy flow, products with low absorbency levels are not suitable. Bill A-5172 would require these products to be freely accessible in correctional facilities.

“Our incarcerated population is incredibly vulnerable. Access to menstrual products which have a variety of absorbency levels should not be a luxury. This is basic hygiene – it’s a human right,” Ramirez said in a statement.

The bill idea was given to Ramirez by constituent Eiko La Boria, who is the founder of The Flow Initiative – a Jersey City-based nonprofit dedicated to menstrual equity and ending period poverty.

“I’m deeply grateful to Assemblywoman Ramirez for her extraordinary leadership on this bill to ensure dignity, mercy, and hygiene for incarcerated women. This bill deserves bipartisan support—periods are biological, not political,” Lo Boria added.

State Senator Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz (D-29) is the bill sponsor in the upper chamber.

According to Ramirez’s office, it is estimated that 10 to 15 percent of women experience endometriosis, and 5 to 10 percent of women experience PCOS.

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