

Wisconsin Capitol, state buildings to provide free feminine hygiene products in restrooms under Evers mandate

Molly Beck, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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Women's restrooms in state buildings will be outfitted with free feminine hygiene product dispensers like this one in a restroom at the Wisconsin State Capitol. (Photo: Molly Beck / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

MADISON - Women's restrooms in the Wisconsin State Capitol and other state buildings will have free feminine hygiene products under recent action by Gov. Tony Evers.

The move will provide free tampons and sanitary napkins in women's restrooms in buildings overseen by the state Department of Administration.

Rep. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, has long pushed to provide such products at no cost. She said Tuesday that Evers' decision "is a good example of government working for its people."

"When people who don't menstruate walk into bathrooms, they have everything they need — when people who menstruate walk into bathrooms, they don't," Sargent said. "This is not only an equity issue, but it's a public health issue."

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Sargent in 2015 introduced a bill that would accomplish the same goal and provide free products in public schools, too. The proposal went nowhere.

The DOA has installed or converted 138 units at a cost of \$18,875, which was paid for out of operating funds within the department's facilities budget, according to a department spokeswoman.

Contact Molly Beck at molly.beck@jm.com. Follow her on Twitter at [@MollyBeck](https://twitter.com/MollyBeck)

