

Fighting Period Poverty & Diaper Need

[HB 406](#) - [Rep. Aldridge](#) (D-78, St. Louis) • [HB 793](#) - [Rep. Coleman](#) (R-97, Arnold)

Many Missourians struggle to afford period supplies and diapers. House Bill 406 lowers the sales tax on period supplies and diapers, reducing the cost and helping those who experience period poverty and diaper need.

Period supplies and diapers are basic needs, but many Missourians struggle to afford them each year.

- Many Missourians with low incomes cannot afford to purchase pads, tampons, or diapers. This leads to missed days of school and work.
- State and federal safety-net programs like WIC and SNAP (formerly called food stamps) cannot be used to purchase period supplies or diapers.
- Missouri currently taxes tampons, pads, pantyliners, menstrual cups and diapers as luxury items.
- House Bill 406 will help more Missourians who experience diaper need and period poverty to afford these basic supplies by reducing the state sales tax to the same rate as food.

Diapers are a basic need. They're essential to keeping babies dry and healthy and parents mentally well and able to work.

- One in three families has experienced diaper need — meaning they struggled to afford enough diapers to keep their children clean, dry and healthy.

A 2018 survey, conducted by U by Kotex with YouGov, found:

- One in four women struggled to purchase period products within the past year due to lack of income.
- One in five women with low income report missing work, school, or similar events due to lack of access to period supplies.
- Lack of access to period supplies.
- Lack of access to period supplies is linked to using substitute products, like toilet paper or socks, stretching product usage, and missing important events.
- An overwhelming 88% of women agree that period products are a basic necessity.
- Only 4% of women are aware of a local resource where free or reduced cost period supplies are available.