

## Fighting Period Poverty & Diaper Need

[HB 2272](#) - [Rep. Aldridge](#) (D-78, St. Louis)

[HB 1679](#) - [Rep. Sharp](#) (R-36, Kansas City) • [HB 2859](#) - [Rep. Bailey](#) (R-110, Eureka)

*Many Missourians struggle to afford period supplies and diapers. House Bill 2772 lowers the sales tax on period supplies and diapers while HB 1679 and HB 2859 exempt diapers from sales tax.*

**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.
- These bills will help more Missourians who experience diaper need and period poverty afford basic necessities so they can care for themselves and their families with dignity. HB 2859 and 1679 exempt diapers from sales tax while HB 2772 lowers the state sales tax on both diapers and period products 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.