

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WOMEN PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution: (Assigned by HOD)
(I-24)

Introduced by: Laurie Lapp, Sham Manoranjithan, Sara Kazyak, Sarah Costello

Subject: Addressing Gender-Based Pricing Disparities

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

1 Whereas, up to 80% of consumer-based products are segmented by gender, with female
2 targeted products costing up to 7% more than male targeted products¹; and
3

4 Whereas, a U.S. Government Accountability Office investigation on gender-based price
5 differences found that deodorants, shaving creams, and disposable razor blades targeted
6 towards female consumers had higher prices compared to similar products advertised toward
7 male consumers²⁻⁴; and
8

9 Whereas, a JAMA Dermatology study found that Minoxidil prescriptions were priced significantly
10 more per volume for female patients compared to male patients⁵; and
11

12 Whereas, facial moisturizers marketed towards female consumers are on average \$3.09 more
13 per ounce than moisturizers marketed towards male consumers, despite no significant
14 differences in the products' targeted skin-concerns⁶; and
15

16 Whereas, women spend more than 15 billion dollars annually more than men on healthcare
17 costs, but they also pay 18% more on average for out-of-pocket medical expenses than men
18 despite having similar insurance coverage⁷; and
19

20 Whereas, older women are disproportionately affected by gaps in coverage for long-term-care
21 services and higher out-of-pocket expenses⁸; and
22

23 Whereas, menstrual products are a necessity, and past efforts have made these products tax-
24 exempt in 24 states, but many women in non-tax-exempt states pay taxes ranging from 4-7% on
25 menstrual products⁹⁻¹¹; and
26

27 Whereas, lack of affordable access to menstrual products increases exposure to health risks
28 such as urinary tract infection, candidiasis, and mental health disorders such as depression and
29 anxiety¹²⁻¹⁴; and
30

31 Whereas, the compounding effects of increasing wage gap, gender pricing disparities, and sole
32 household income earners result in negative overall effects on health and quality of life
33 particularly for women¹⁵⁻¹⁸; and
34

35 Whereas, state and local jurisdictions have passed laws to prohibit gender-based price
36 discrimination, and the Pink Tax Repeal Act has been introduced in Congress^{4, 14, 19}; therefore
37 be it
38

- 39 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support federal and state efforts to
 40 minimize gender-based pricing disparities in healthcare services and products.

Fiscal Note: Assigned by HOD

Date Submitted: XX/XX/2024

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Considering Feminine Hygiene Products as Medical Necessities H-525.974

Our AMA: (1) encourages the Internal Revenue Service to classify feminine hygiene products as medical necessities; (2) will work with federal, state, and specialty medical societies to advocate for the removal of barriers to feminine hygiene products in state and local prisons and correctional institutions to ensure incarcerated women be provided free of charge, the appropriate type and quantity of feminine hygiene products including tampons for their needs; and (3) encourages the American National Standards Institute, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other relevant stakeholders to establish and enforce a standard of practice for providing free, readily available menstrual care products to meet the needs of workers. [Res. 218, A-18; Modified: Res. 209, I-21]

Tax Exemptions for Feminine Hygiene Products H-270.953

Our AMA supports legislation to remove all sales tax on feminine hygiene products. [Res. 215, A-16]