



Dear Neighbor,

For the last two years, I have worked to end discrimination against women in our tax code. Currently, Connecticut collects sales tax on feminine hygiene products and baby diapers, but not adult diapers. Only three states distinguish between baby diapers and adult diapers. Feminine hygiene products and diapers are not luxury items, they are essential to the basic needs of women, girls, and young children. I am proud to say that these bills have been rolled into the revenue package, which awaits a vote by both chambers.

As I continue to work to improve our quality of life, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have relating to state issues. If you would like to receive news from my office, go to my website, [www.housedems.ct.gov/Luxenberg](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Luxenberg), and sign up for email updates.

Sincerely,

Kelly JS Luxenberg  
State Representative

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Permit No. 3937

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KELLY JS LUXENBERG**

REPRESENTING MANCHESTER | 12TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KELLY LUXENBERG**  
PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER



**LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN INCLUDING:  
EXPANDING THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION  
FOR FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND  
DISPOSABLE OR REUSABLE DIAPERS  
PRODUCTS**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KELLY JS LUXENBERG

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## PAY EQUITY AND FAIRNESS

Women deserve equal pay for equal work, but women make \$0.77 to a man's \$1.00. This bill is a solid first step in addressing the lack of transparency in the workplace concerning wages. Employers can no longer prevent employees from voluntarily discussing their own wages or retaliate against anyone who does. This is critical, because one cannot fight gender-based pay discrimination if salaries cannot be compared.

## THE PROCESSING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS

The bill is aimed at expediting the handling of critical evidence in sexual assault cases and will set up strict timelines during which police must retrieve rape evidence kits from hospitals and bring them to the state's forensic lab for testing. This will ensure that key DNA samples will be available to prosecutors in rape cases.

## PART OF REP. LUXENBERG'S TESTIMONY TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE ON THE "FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND DISPOSABLE OR REUSABLE DIAPERS PRODUCTS" BILL

"The average woman will menstruate 470 times over four decades for a total of six and a quarter years of her life. A young woman who begins her period today will pay nearly \$2,000 for tampons over the time she menstruates - and that is assuming there is no inflation - in addition to the taxes she must pay on the product.

Under CGS 12-412(453), disposable pads used for incontinence are determined to be medical goods and therefore are exempt from taxation. Incontinence is the inability of the body to control evacuative functions, which I don't believe should be solely limited to urine and defecation, but also should include menstruation. I also do not think that the age of the incontinent person - adult vs. baby - should dictate whether or not that evacuative function is taxed.

Both cloth and disposable diapers for babies are taxed in Connecticut, but adult diapers are not.

Babies - just like adults - who are not kept clean and dry and who are forced to wear soiled diapers for an extended period of time can get rashes and other skin problems. Rationing diapers due to the expense can ultimately turn more costly if the severity of the rash necessitates a trip to the pediatrician or Emergency Room for a visit and prescription cream.

Not having your child in a disposable diaper is often an economic barrier for women because almost all daycares require that disposable diapers be provided. Without daycare services, many women are unable to work outside of the home.

I was reminded of the pads designed for incontinence - pads that practically mirror maxipads. They both have the same function, one is taxed but one isn't."

## THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM

Longstanding programs for veterans were developed without the unique needs of women veterans in mind. This bill acknowledges the need for information and services tailored for female vets. Both chambers voted unanimously to pass this bill.

## PROTECTING INTERNS FROM WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

This bill received unanimous bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. Unpaid interns, by virtue of their very status as well as the power differential between an intern and a supervisor, are in particularly vulnerable positions with regard to sexual harassment. Previously, unpaid interns did not fall within the definition of "employee," and had no recourse in cases of sexual harassment. This bill will give these workers a voice.



*Rep. Luxenberg is holding similar products. One is taxed, one is not. Can you guess which one is the taxable item?*