

# CRISTINA GARCIA

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

58TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE  
P.O. Box 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0058  
PHONE: (916) 319-2058  
E-MAIL: ASSEMBLYMEMBER.GARCIA@ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV



DISTRICT OFFICE  
8255 FIRESTONE BLVD SUITE 203  
DOWNEY, CA 90241  
PHONE: (562) 861-5803  
WEBSITE: WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/GARCIA

## Press Release

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Contact: Ashley Labar- Asm Garcia  
Office: (916) 319-2058/Cell: (925) 719-1298

Contact: David May -LA Regional Food Bank  
Cell (323) 383-1319

# Assemblymember Garcia Announces \$2 Million Menstrual Product Pilot Program



Today at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and members of the community discussed the importance of access to Menstrual Products and announced a pilot program for a menstrual product bank for those in need.

Specifically, AB 150 approved \$2 million General Fund in 2021-22 one-time for a menstrual product pilot project at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank. Assemblymember Garcia looks forward to helping ensure the successful implementation of that pilot and plans to work with stakeholders to expanded the pilot state-wide and help more facing period poverty.

“Our biology doesn’t always send an advanced warning when we’re about to start menstruating, which often means we need to stop whatever we’re doing and deal with a period. Often periods arrive at inconvenient times. They can surprise us during an important midterm, while playing with our children at a park, sitting in a lobby waiting to interview for a job, shopping at the grocery. Having free access to these products at the Food Bank and other locations means our period won’t prevent us from being productive members of society, and would alleviate the anxiety of trying to find a product when out in public, or finding the money to buy products, period products are as essential as food,” said Assemblymember Garcia.

While most of the products provided by the LA Regional Food Bank are food items, we also help distribute other goods,” said Michael Flood, President and CEO of the LA Regional Food Bank. "Our Partner Agency Network and direct distribution programs allow us to provide other critical items, such as these menstrual products, to families throughout LA County, and this incredible funding will allow us to help far more people in our community."

"IGNITE is proud to advocate for menstrual equity alongside Assemblymember Garcia. Menstrual equity plays an integral part in IGNITE's mission of fostering the next generation of political leaders. We simply cannot achieve gender equity without menstrual equity. Without menstrual equity, people who menstruate are unable to actively participate in social and political spaces." - Sara Guillermo, CEO, IGNITE National

During Assemblymember Garcia's tenure in the California State legislature, as the self-proclaimed Period Princess, she has been and continues to be a vocal champion and advocate of period dignity policies. In 2017, the Assemblymember successfully passed and had legislation signed into law to ensure low-income schools in disadvantaged communities provide students with free menstrual products. This year Assembly Bill (AB) 367 was signed into law and requires all schools maintaining grades 6-12, community colleges, college campuses (CSU/UC) to stock its public restrooms with free menstrual products. In addition, Assemblymember Garcia led the successful effort to repeal the tax charged on menstrual health products. This effort started an international movement to rectify the discriminatory taxation of menstrual products, which cost Californians born with a uterus over \$20 million annually. Assemblymember Garcia is committed to continue the fight to ensure that having a uterus is no longer stigmatized by misunderstanding, bias, or fear.

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**The 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes the cities of Montebello, Pico Rivera, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Downey, Norwalk, Bellflower, Cerritos and Artesia.**