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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

BAN PFAS & OTHER TOXICS IN MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

S.3529 – FERNANDEZ

A.5990 – ROSENTHAL

Description: Bans PFAS, formaldehyde and other toxic chemicals in menstrual care products, including pads, tampons, douches, and wipes.

Justification

Independent testing of menstrual products has detected harmful chemicals including phthalates, PFAS, bisphenols, formaldehyde, styrene, toluene, parabens, and triclosan, and others. These chemicals can cause short-term health problems as well as long-term health risks, including cancer and reproductive harm. This is especially concerning considering menstrual products are used in intimate areas of the body.

In the United States, 72 million people who menstruate between the ages of 15-49 rely on these products. Individuals can use over 16,000 feminine hygiene products over the course of their lifetime. Since these products are necessary for hygiene purposes, toxic free items should be made available to consumers, so they are not inevitably harmed by products that they frequently use for decades of their lives.

Banning toxic chemicals in menstrual and feminine hygiene products is necessary to protect consumers and relieve difficulties in identifying safe products for intimate use.