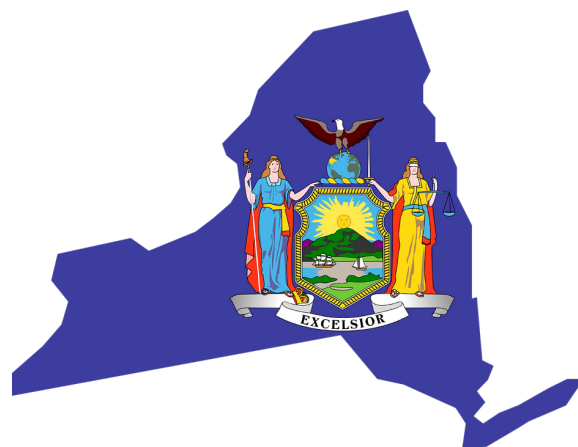




# Gov. Kathy Hochul signs new legislation

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the Health Equity and Opportunity legislative package Saturday, which further supports the state's commitment to gender inclusivity and will provide necessary resources to New York's youth.



Legislation in this package addresses a wide range of issues, which requires middle and high schools to provide free menstrual products in school bathrooms and requires cosmetologists to receive training on all hair types and patterns, including natural hair types throughout their education.

***We know now more than ever before the positive impact inclusivity has on communities, and in New York, we're taking the steps to ensure equity for all from healthcare to haircare. From simply updating the way certain products are referred to, to expanding access to vital resources for those who may need them most, as time progresses, so should our laws.***

Legislation S.5913A/A.113A requires menstrual products to be provided to students for free in private middle and high school student restrooms.

State Senator Iwen Chu said, "A stigma around menstruation and menstrual inequities continues to impact thousands of students in New York State. Twenty-five percent of menstruating individuals do not have access to period products, which are a basic necessity that can be a burdensome expense for families. Without these products, students are likely to miss classes and school days. I'm proud to see my legislation signed by Governor Hochul so non-public school students have menstrual products accessible to them and strengthen our fight against period poverty. Menstruation is not a choice, but removing the barrier to product access is."

<https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/governor-hochul-signs-new-legislation-inclusivity-from-healthcare-to-haircare>