

## **Pink Tax**

*By Jose Lopez Huerta*

Did you know that women pay about \$2.71 more than men on shampoo? Did you know that women pay almost \$4.00 more on razors than men? The reason why female consumers pay more for their products such as shampoo, deodorant, and razors is because companies realized they could get more money off of female consumers. According to the Washington Post, companies are getting more money off of female consumers because women use more products than males, and therefore companies started taxing products such as razors, shampoo, deodorant and tampons. This tax is known as the Pink Tax. The Pink Tax may affect female consumers, but it impacts the lives of low-income women or single mothers, and they don't even notice. The 5-75% D.C sales tax, which is uniformly on all taxable purchases regardless of income level, is regressive.

The Pink Tax, or more commonly known as the tampon tax, was started back in June of 2018 because companies realized they could make more money off of female consumers. About 14 out of the 50 states don't tax female products. Taryn Hillin who is a Journalist for the media company Fusion said, "For those uninitiated in the country's tax codes, most states tax all 'tangible personal property' but make exemptions for select 'necessities.'" Things that are considered necessities usually include groceries, food stamp purchases, medical purchases, clothes, and agriculture supplies. The lists of exemptions vary from state to state." Some of the confirmed states that exempt from the sales tax are Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. This is a good first step towards gender equality because it is unfair that women have to pay more than men on the same products.

I had a conversation with some female students that attend Yorba Middle School about the Pink Tax. The first student said "I think the Pink Tax is about a protest regarding taxes". A second student mentioned, "It is a waste of women's money, it should be equal to men's products", while the third said, "companies should find a different way of making money instead of taxing the women".

The Pink Tax is hurting more and more women in the U.S than ever before. For the future, "The D.C. Council should support the mayor and women and girls who live and work in the District by funding the menstrual products sales-tax exemption in the 2019 budget", as stated by the Washington Post. By cutting down on taxes on feminine products, future women will not have to pay the high taxes seen today.