

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso-Leon, Vice Chairs Neron, Weber, and members of the committee. My name is Maddi Raze and I live in Fairview, Oregon. Students of all genders deserve access to quality education. For menstruators forced to free bleed in the classroom, the anxiety and shame that comes along is paralyzing, and significantly hinders their ability to concentrate on anything but their period. It's close to impossible to be fully engaged in a lesson, when you are thinking of what to do if you stand up and there is blood on your chair. For folks that can't afford menstrual products every month, the shame and isolation intensifies, because the stigma around periods has prevented students from speaking with members of their administration. Some families can afford products every month, some months, or never-- this bill assists each and every one of these families. Most young people do not have regular periods, occurring exactly 28 days apart or returning on the same day of every month. HB3294 protects menstruators that unexpectedly start their period during the school day and don't have proper products, regardless of the reason. Please help build the bridge between menstruators and the rest of the school community by passing this bill. All students deserve to feel acknowledged, safe, and comfortable when in school.