Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Marichelle Gurski, and I am studying Liberal Studies as a Dual Enrolled student at OSU- Cascades and Central Oregon Community College.

I am here to ask you to join our students in supporting HB 3294 that will provide free menstrual products at no cost to students in public schools. In my experience as a student leader and Director of Student Advocacy on my campus at OSU-Cascades, I am in charge of managing our safer living kits initiative where we offer student-free menstrual products, contraceptives, and other essential hygiene items to address the equity needs on our campus. I have undertaken the project of partnering with Aunt Flow to bring Menstrual Equity to my campus. We just got approval from our Student Fee committee to bring this vital initiative to my campus. Starting spring, we will be the first, second higher education institution in Oregon to provide this service to our students free of charge. From a study done by Thinx & PERIOD on Period poverty: 1 in 5 teens in the US have struggled to afford period products or could not purchase them at all. More than 4 in 5 students (84%) in the US have either missed class time or know someone who missed class time because they did not have access to period products. Two-thirds of teens have felt stress due to lack of access to period products. This bill is one of the first steps we can take in Oregon to tackle Period Poverty's complex issue that affects people who menstruate worldwide to set an example for other states. This legislation would follow suit in a global conversation with Menstrual Equity. Countries like Scotland, New Zealand, and France have all passed legislation to provide free menstrual products to their students.

Please see I have attached a link to the study on the effects of Period Poverty.
 State-of-the-Period DOC-1.p

Therefore, I urge the committees to support HB3294.

Thank you for your time,
Marichelle Gurski