

Mensuration products are a necessity for all menstruators, they are the farthest thing from a luxury product. I am fortunate as a twenty year old woman to be in a position where I will never worry about paying for hygiene products. I have a supportive family that provided period hygiene products for me as I went through puberty starting from the age of thirteen years old. I am currently twenty years old, and my Mom still picks me up period products so when I come home to visit, there are always products available for me, and extra to take back with me. This is a privilege, yet I do not think it should be celebratory to say that you never have to worry about being able to afford period products. Having discussions on whether or not you can or cannot afford period products should be concerning because period poverty should not be a concern for menstruators. Society underestimates and fails to truly grasp the difficulties menstruators face every month.

The pandemic has affected society, communities, families, and individuals in profound ways. Through these difficult times, people, especially students have adapted, and persevered through the difficulties of transitioning to a completely different way of life. As students have returned and continue to return to in person classes, campuses, and educational institutions, administrations, faculty, and staff need to be cognizant of the difficulty the transition may be. As we all adapt to a new form of normal, period poverty and menstruation issues never went away. More than ever, as students continue persevering through these times, it should not be assumed that students who menstruate can afford or have constant access to necessary hygiene products.

25% of teenagers miss school each month due to the lack of hygiene resources. 20% of menstruators in Oregon cannot afford period hygiene products each month. There needs to be an equal opportunity for students around the state. Not having access or ability to purchase period hygiene products should not be holding students back from pursuing their education. I believe that every public education institution should provide certain hygiene products to students who menstruate at no cost to the students. I support the HB 3294 bill, and I ask for your support in giving all students an equitable opportunity, and this will be ensured by passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.