

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso-Leon, Vice Chairs Neron, Weber, and members of the committee. For the record my name is Amanda Orozco-Beach and I serve on the Board of Directors for the Gresham-Barlow School Board.

I would like to thank you all for taking time to hear my support of HB 3294 – Also known as The Menstrual Dignity Act.

There are plenty of facts and statistics that prove that period poverty is a real thing, I would invite you to go to the store and walk down the aisle that sells menstrual products and I can promise you, you will always see at least one box of opened pads or tampons. We can ignore all of these problems as a society as much as we want, but menstruators and period poverty aren't going to disappear if we keep ignoring their needs.

There is nothing luxurious about having access to menstrual products. Access to these products is a basic human right and promotes sanitation and positive mental well being in our schools and campuses.

Not being able to afford these products is traumatic and as leaders in Oregon, if we have an opportunity to end poverty for the people we serve, we should be able to do so... especially if it is for something as inexpensive as providing menstrual products for students.

The average menstruator spends \$9 a month on menstrual products. That isn't very much money on the states end, but to others that is a meal and then some.

When spending comes up on this topic, I can't help but wonder if the same fiscal arguments were made for providing toilet paper and paper towels in school bathrooms?

I brought this bill up to my superintendent, Dr. Perera, and she immediately went to work on it saying that we can get the funding from our CARES funds.

Other school districts such as Tigard-Tualatin and Eugene have proven that this act of service to our students is easy and inexpensive and it is very possible to provide these dispensers to these restrooms before Fall Term 2021.

While a lot of schools do provide menstrual products in the nurses office, or maybe a really cool teacher provides these products... it is simply not necessary to continue doing this. Menstruators should be able to go to the restroom and take care of themselves in their own privacy with no shame or stigma. Students don't go to the office for toilet paper, don't make menstruating students keep doing the same thing.

Let's make Oregon schools something to be proud of and serve our students by providing them with menstrual products in our schools.

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to doing the right equitable thing and making history with you all starting today.