



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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Testimony supporting HB 3294

March 16, 2021

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

Portland Public Schools is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to education for all our students. At its core, this means ensuring students have the tools to meet their most basic needs during school hours. In pursuing this mission, PPS began providing free feminine hygiene products in high school girls' and unisex restrooms after a pilot project at Grant High School in 2019.

HB 3294 would make this a reality statewide, by requiring school districts to provide female hygiene products at no cost to students.

The onset of menstruation is unpredictable and, without access to menstrual products, a student may need to leave school in order to access these items. Students shouldn't have to leave class just because they are experiencing a normal biological function. Additionally, meeting these basic needs should be free from shame or embarrassment. By providing menstrual products free of charge, we are helping to remove the stigma around a normal part of adolescence.

We urge your support of HB 3294.

Sincerely,

Courtney Westling  
Director of Government Relations  
Portland Public Schools