

PERIOD.

March 16, 2021

Testimony for Oregon House Bill 3294, Menstrual Dignity Act

As a resident of the great state of Oregon and the National Programs Director for PERIOD, I am incredibly proud to support House Bill 3294, the Menstrual Dignity Act, as introduced by Representative Ricky Ruiz.

According to a [2019 study](#), 1 in 5 teens in the United States struggle to purchase period products or were not able to purchase them at all. Furthermore, more than 4 in 5 students have either missed class time, or know someone who has missed class because they did not have access to period products. Young menstruators having their period at school, often for the very first time, need to have access to period products easily accessible in their school restroom, as much as toilet paper and soap are available in school restrooms already. Having period products in school restrooms will reduce shame, loss of learning time, and frankly, allow menstruators to live their life to the fullest, with dignity.

Pasing HB 3294 will allow Oregon to be a leader toward both menstrual and gender equity in the United States. This bill, along with the continued organized efforts of hundreds of young activists throughout Oregon and the nation, will move us all closer to eliminating period poverty and period stigma in our lifetime. It's feasible, and possible. PERIOD is proud to stand with our home state of Oregon to change thousands of lives for the better for all menstruating students in Oregon.

Damaris Pereda
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Resource:

"State of the Period" The Harris Poll, 2019.

https://thepolicyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/State-of-the-Period-white-paper_Thinx_PERIOD.pdf