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To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 1522, sec. 8
Date: February 1, 2022

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of section 8 of SB 1522. Section 8 was included in this bill at OSBA request and would modify statutes created in the passage of the Menstrual Dignity Act of 2021.

The Menstrual Dignity Act of 2021 requires public schools to provide menstrual products in public school bathrooms free of charge. OSBA supported the passage of that bill and continues to support the goals of the bill. Since the passage of the bill, however, OSBA has received feedback from school staff indicating that it is inappropriate and possibly dangerous to leave items unattended in certain school bathrooms, specifically:

- Bathrooms for medical facilities, such as Long-Term Care and Treatment facilities, wherein students also receive education. These facilities heavily regulate all items left unattended for student safety. These facilities already provide menstrual products free of charge in a monitored fashion.
- Bathrooms in Early Learning and preschool facilities that are designated for use only by the young students in these facilities.

The relevant portions of SB 1522 would address these concerns by making a change to allow the State Board of Education to promulgate rules to exempt these bathrooms. The changes are targeted and are technical in nature. There is no known opposition to this measure and the chief sponsor of the Menstrual Dignity Act, Rep. Ricki Ruiz, supports this change.

Thank you for your time and attention and ask for your support of this portion of the bill.