

Hello Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and the rest of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Krista Suarez and I am a freshman studying Accounting and Business Analytics at Oregon State University.

I am here to ask you to join Oregon students in supporting the amendment to SB 1522 to provide free menstrual products in residence hall bathrooms.

Lack of access to menstrual hygiene products results in physical health risks, negative social and psychological effects, and educational decline. Providing menstrual products in residence halls would allow students with a menstrual cycle to access necessity products without shame or stigma and would relieve financial stress.

In my experience period products are incredibly expensive. At the end of my first year at OSU I will have had approximately nine regular cycles and my personal preference for pads can cost up to \$17.83 a box, which lasts me about two cycles max. So assuming I don't have any extra periods starting from stress, which has happened, I will have spent \$80.24 approximately on period products. And that is solely based on the cost of pads, it doesn't include the cost of painkillers to relieve the side effects caused by periods or the cost of laundry soap when period products fail to work. Trying to afford basic hygiene products can put people into a tough spot financially, and we all know that college students have almost no income. Period products are necessary for student well being and should be supplied in residence hall bathrooms so that every student can be hygienic no matter their financial situation.

Having access to period products would relieve enormous amounts of stress regarding my cycle and make having my period a less terrible affair overall since it would be convenient, relieve some financial burden, and let me worry about other things like food.

Passing this bill is a step in the right direction for gender equity on college campuses & ensuring students' basic needs are met. Please remember my story when you vote on this bill, and please join me in supporting SB 1522.

Thank you for your time,
Krista Suarez