

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

My name is Lauren Mackey, and I am a sophomore majoring in business administration 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. As a college student living on campus, I spend a considerable amount of time in the classroom and other workspaces. I operate around daily and weekly routines, which are almost always consistent, except for the weeks where I'm menstruating and must change things up a bit. Though I'm accustomed to it, it's a hassle to remember to pack a pouch full of feminine hygiene products every day before I leave out. There are some days where I might be running a little late to class or work, and may forget to pack something, which means I must go without unless I have time to stop somewhere to buy extras. There are days where I'm almost completely occupied until the end of the day, so it's a big inconvenience to forget. The idea, though, is that these resources should be available to us, free of charge. Some days when I'm on my cycle, I'll avoid even going to school or work, just to avoid the hassle of having to go to the bathroom with a bag or trying to be discrete about something that's completely normal. I feel that it's basic human decency to ensure that everyone has what they need to be successful, including people who menstruate. Feminine hygiene products are a necessity and should be made available to us. Most government assistance programs don't cover menstrual products, and they're typically not available in most public restrooms. Menstruation is completely normal and should be treated as such.

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,

Lauren Mackey.