



“Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 61, which will exempt from sales and use tax the sale of tampons and other hygiene products related to menstruation.”

Imagine yourself as a sixteen-year-old female student living on limited income. Mom is barely able to put enough food on the table, pay the rent and utilities and provide clean clothing. Your period is typically heavy requiring changing the pad or tampon every three hours and you often wear a pad in addition to the tampon in order to not have any leakage showing while at school. You have only three tampons left and one pad knowing you have at least two days of menstruation remaining. Food Stamps do not cover these products and the local clothing pantry is out of any supplies. What are your options:

1. Call in sick to school and miss the science lab instruction
2. Go to school risk embarrassment because you are not able to change as frequent and you now have that terrible odor of dried blood.
3. Go with the only the tampon and hope you have no leakage as you have no other clothes to change into.
4. Keep the old tampon in and add a new one and hope that is enough to stop the flow while at school and put yourself at risk for pelvic infection which will require hospital visit and medications and more days missed of school.

These are real life decisions our students often make. If the student is lucky, the school nurse will have some supply to offer at the school. The school nurse may even have a change of clothing. Where is the dignity in all of this? Menstrual Hygiene Products are a necessity.

It is time for Ohio to join Illinois, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. that specifically exempt feminine hygiene products. This is just one small step in promoting healthy students towards academic success.