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42ND DISTRICT

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Special Committee on Rules

Vice Chair- Committee on Insurance

Committee on Health

Committee on Public Utilities

Committee on Aging & Long Term
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Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 19
Ways and Means Committee
February 19, 2019

Chairman Schaffer, Vice-Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 19, which would exempt tampons and other feminine hygiene products associated with menstruation from sales tax.

Women experience hundreds of menstrual cycles in their lifetime. During these times, they have to purchase feminine hygiene products in order to continue their normal day of going to school, work, etc. Tampons and pads should be considered medically necessary items as they are essential for women to live their everyday lives, and should not be taxed. Many households in Ohio are currently living at or below the poverty line. Women in these households should not have to spend extra dollars on sales tax for medically necessary products when they could be saving that money for bills, education, groceries, etc.

This sales tax exemption would include tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other products associated with feminine hygiene in connection with the menstrual cycle. These items are necessities for women and should be considered as such. We need to ensure that women can afford to purchase these products, which can only be used briefly and need replaced often. Usage of tampons for over eight hours can result in toxic shock syndrome, a potentially fatal condition. This is a nonpartisan issue, as Republicans we should support all tax cuts that will help the people we represent. I am proud to be a joint sponsor of this common sense legislation that will cut sales tax to help women save money and have access to the feminine hygiene products they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 19. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.