

WRITTEN TESTIMONY (PROPONENT) OF CHRISTIE ANGEL
OHIO COUNCIL OF YWCAs
BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, CHAIRMAN TIM SCHAFFER
H.B.19
MARCH 19, 2019

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, I am Christie Angel, President and Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Columbus and a member of the Ohio Council of YWCAs' advocacy committee. I am here to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 19, which will exempt tampons and other hygiene products related to menstruation from the state sales and use tax.

The Ohio Council of YWCAs is made up of 14 YWCAs across Ohio, with associations located in virtually each region of the State. The leadership of each YWCA is fortified by boards, staff and volunteers committed to the same bold mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Another area of importance to the Council is fairness in taxation.

Women experience hundreds of menstrual cycles in their lifetime, and as this Committee is aware, life does not stop for women during these times. Women must go to work, school or attend to other activities as in any other day. 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.

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 medical necessities for women and should be considered as such.

Aside from the equitable nature of this bill, the bipartisan sponsors of this bill – Representatives Brigid Kelley and Niraj Antani – highlighted facts and statistics that the State should not ignore. The average woman spends thousands of dollars during her lifetime on these products. Many women cannot afford the necessary amount of sanitary products and a tax on top of those amounts is burdensome. Furthermore, the health effects on poor women who cannot afford the products in the first place can be devastating.

Chairman Schaffer, we urge the Committee to favorably consider HB19. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.