

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.

You heard from Representative Kelly on the facts and figures of this bill and how it affects Ohio women. It is really important that I tell you how this could affect my life differently from any other women in Ohio. As an out and proud Lesbian, I think of this bill from a different perspective. Many might have only been able to understand this bill from a heterosexual persons perspective. In a heterosexual couples budget, it allots for one woman's need for feminine hygiene products thus producing sales tax from two peoples income for one person. In a homosexual couples budget, there are two people for which the budget has to allot money for feminine hygiene products. Lesbian Homosexual couples pay for double the amount of feminine hygiene product and thus double the amount of sales tax, unfairly putting more tax obligation on a homosexual couple for a medical necessity.

I urge Ohio to follow the example of the other twelve states that exempt feminine hygiene products from sales tax, and Representative Kelly's lead in passing House Bill 61.

Thank you for allowing me to submit a witness statement for House Bill 61. I'll be happy to answer any questions at this time