

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the State and Local Government committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 30. My name is Ella Roxey, and I'm a senior at Ohio State studying political science and criminology. I'm also the vice president and advocacy chair of PERIOD. at OSU, the menstrual movement on campus. We have been working with Ohio legislators since 2019 when our state repealed the tampon tax. In 2023, Governor DeWine signed the FY24-25 State Operating Budget which included a new mandate that all Ohio schools serving girls in grades 6-12 provide free period products, and it included a \$5 million allocation for this purpose. I thank you for your ongoing support of the women and girls of Ohio.

Today, I am asking you to continue the good work the Ohio General Assembly has been doing for years in support of women's health. Having free menstrual products in women's prisons, jails, and correctional facilities is a matter of basic human dignity. I am sure that you will hear and read numerous stories from previously incarcerated women who will share the mortifying, degrading, and unsafe conditions they have endured while menstruating behind bars. I will not tell their stories for them in the hope that you will read, empathize, and use your power to improve the status quo. I have heard their stories, and as an Ohioan, a woman, and a believer in the right to menstruate safely and with dignity, I implore you to stand with the incarcerated women in Ohio by guaranteeing them, by law, access to free menstrual products.

Thank you for your time and fair consideration. I ask that you favorably report the bill.

Sincerely,
Ella Roxey