



State Representative Latyna M. Humphrey (OH-02)

Hb30 Sponsor Testimony

Good afternoon, Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair schuring , Ranking Member Demora, and all other members of the General Government Committee.

I am here today to discuss an important piece of legislation, HB30. This bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to provide all inmates with access to feminine hygiene products. HB30 has passed both the committee and the House floor unanimously.

When this bill first came to my attention, I engaged in various conversations with key stakeholders at the DRC and the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC). As a result of these discussions, in November 2022, the DRC established a variance that essentially achieves the goals of HB30.

You might wonder, if there's already a variance, why do we need to enact this into law? The answer is that variances can change. By passing HB30, we ensure these provisions become a permanent part of Ohio's regulations, regardless of future administrative changes.

HB30 mandates that jails and prisons provide women with hygiene products at no cost. It also requires the establishment of rules regarding product sizes and safe disposal methods. No woman should be denied these products or the opportunity to shower during her period, regardless of circumstances.

Additionally, the bill requires facilities to offer a range of product sizes, have a written protocol in place, and maintain sanitary disposal procedures. It explicitly prohibits denying feminine hygiene products or access to showering or bathing during menstruation, irrespective of an inmate's separation from the general population due to charges or disciplinary reasons.

Passing HB30 is not just about fairness; it's about demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of every person in our state, including those who are incarcerated. Therefore, I urge each of you to join me in supporting this crucial bill.

Currently, there is no law that mandates Ohio jails and prisons to provide feminine hygiene products to inmates. Menstruation is a natural and involuntary bodily function that occurs regularly. Proper care for this function is essential for good health. It is vital that correctional facilities provide these necessary items to women in their care.

As mentioned, this bill already has the support of the House and key stakeholders, and there is no opposition to this bill. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman Wilkins, and members of the General Government Committee. I humbly ask for your support in passing HB30. I am happy to answer any questions the committee members may have.