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Marilyn John
Majority Floor Leader

Good afternoon, Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, and members of the Government Oversight Committee.

I want to thank you for allowing Representative Humphry and me to speak on behalf of House Bill 29. I sincerely appreciate the dedication my colleague, Representative Humphry, has shown in bringing this issue to the attention of the Ohio Legislature. She has worked tirelessly, both in the last General Assembly and in this one, to ensure that all incarcerated women in Ohio have access to feminine hygiene products in correctional facilities.

During my tenure as Chair of the State and Local Government Committee in the last General Assembly, a group of women testified in support of this legislation, leaving the entire committee deeply moved. They shared powerful stories about the severe lack of feminine hygiene products in correctional facilities and how the limited supplies available were sometimes used as leverage against them. Their testimonies compelled me to investigate whether this issue existed within my own district. Although my county sheriff's department assured me that it does not, the fact that it persists anywhere in Ohio is unacceptable.

With that, I strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 29. I will now pass the microphone to Representative Humphry to further discuss the contents of this bill.