

Chairman, Thomas Hall; Vice Chairman, Ron Ferguson; Ranking member of the committee, Latyna Humphrey; and all other members of the committee, my name is Erin Noll.

I am a full-time mother. I was sentenced to 12 years in prison at a very young age. I did my time and now I am living my life in a positive, productive manner that is conducive to my family and society.

It was my experience when I was incarcerated, female sanitariums were not easy to come across. When they were distributed, it was one size for all no matter the flow of your cycle. When I would run out of sanitariums, I would have to go to the male officers working at the time and beg for them. Sometimes they said no because they were locked in a closet, and that they didn't feel like getting them for me at the time. I would have to go inmate to inmate begging them for any extra sanitariums.

I do support this bill because some of the women used toilet paper or made handmade tampons out of state pads which was very harmful to their bodies and caused toxic shock and yeast infections from the bacteria. I think this is just a start to what the women need in this area. What I learned while incarcerated was that over 70% of the women at Dayton Correctional Institution are on birth control pills to regulate their menstrual bleeding. Only one out of three female prisons can give vaginal ultrasounds and have a gynecologist on the payroll. If you are not housed in that prison, the medical staff will not send you out to have fibroids looked at or give you a proper pap smear. Policies like this one are sending a warning out to the prison system that changes are happening and that the integrity of a woman's body will be looked after properly while she is incarcerated.

I thank you all for supporting a policy that creates healthy sanitation; it not only provides for the women's sanitariums, but that it will hopefully slow down the numbers of hysterectomies, shame of messy uncontrollable cycles, and embarrassment of begging for sanitariums from male officers in the women's facilities. Please help make this change so that no matter what the punishment, a woman won't ever have to bleed all over herself or feel ashamed for doing something the body does naturally. She will have what she need as a woman to take care of her menstrual cycle. Thank you for your time.