

Ms. Chairwoman Marilyn John, Vice Chair Bill Dean, Ranking member of the committee, Sean Brennan 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 sanitariums. If they said no because they were locked in a closet and they didn't feel like getting them for me at the time. I would have to go inmate to inmate begging them for their 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 that caused toxic shock and yeast infections from the bacteria. I think that 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 D.C.I are on birth control pills to regulate their menstrual bleeding. Only one out of 3 female prisons are able to give vaginal ultrasounds and have a gynaecologist on the payroll. If you are not housed in that prison the medical staff will not send you out to have your 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 they are incarcerated.

I thank you all for creating a policy that creates healthy sanitation. It not only provides for the women's sanitariums but it will hopefully slow down the numbers of hysterectomies, shame of messy uncontrollable cycles, embarrassment of begging for sanitariums from male officers in the women's facilities. Please help make this change. No matter what the punishment no woman should ever have to bleed All over herself or feel ashamed for doing something the body does naturally, and not having what we need as women to take care of our menstrual cycle.

Thank you for your time
Erin C Noll