

January 31, 2019

Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in support of HB 2515 and, in particular, the requirement that sanitary napkins, tampons and undergarments be provided to female detainees or prisoners at no cost.

I hardly believe that this legislation needs to be enacted. Women can't decide not to menstruate, and have no control over it.

The most basic of health regimens require that women need to use feminine hygiene products on a regular basis. Being in jail, it is not as if they are guaranteed a salary or wage that enables them to purchase these products.

The lack of ability to obtain these products at no cost can also put women at risk of abuse by guards. Jails inherently involve an unequal power structure. How humiliating it would be to have to negotiate for these items from people who have control over one's physical and mental well being.

As a woman and Oregon citizen I ask you to support HB 2515 and other bills that address this issue.

Respectfully,

Regina Ayars
Ashland, Oregon