

Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3294. No girl should have to miss school because she can't afford feminine hygiene products. I taught middle school age children for a number of years during my 30 year teaching career. I would like to just tell you a story of one girl, a 6th grader, who could have used this help.

I worked in a K-6 school. This was a child who had missed a lot of school her 6th grade year, much more than usual. There had been a number of home contacts and calls to child welfare to this child's home for a variety of reasons in the past, but she really did her best when she was at school and was so smart, and this large number of absences was something new.

Finally, she told the secretary at our school, who she'd made a trusting connection with, that the reason she was missing so much school this year is she started her period and she didn't come to school when she was having her period because her parent didn't buy her anything for it. This parent, for a number of reasons, was struggling to even keep food in the refrigerator for their children. The attendance problem was solved: our secretary, with the help of other school staff, made sure that she always had access to what she needed so she wouldn't miss school.

I'm sure there are girls this happens to who never tell anyone. And they shouldn't have to. They should have access to the products they need and this is especially true for girls who are not getting that support at home, for whatever reason. If there is any fault there, it's not the child's. ??Please help support girls who need more support by supporting HB 3294.

Kathleen Jeskey  
Canby