

August 30, 2021

Written Testimony for Michigan House Bills 5267 and 4270

As a resident of the great state of Michigan, I am proud to support House Bill 5267 and 4270. It is easy to understand that this tax affects the women of our state. The women affected by this tax are not strangers — we must recognize that this tax impacts our daughters, sisters, mothers, students, and colleagues. The tax on menstrual products creates an undue burden and additional costs that our mothers, families, and friends must bear to maintain a natural bodily process.

Data shows the increasing numbers of students struggling to afford menstrual products. In 2021, nearly 1 in 4 students in the United States reported an inability to access period products. This has increased since 2019, where 1 in 5 students reported the inability to access period products. Because these products are medical necessities, this tax places an unfair burden on Michiganders who are combating the already heightened economic barriers of the pandemic.

Allowing the tax on menstrual products to remain creates a substantial barrier to access. Lack of access to these medically necessary products puts women at risk of adverse health consequences, such as reproductive or urinary tract infections and Toxic Shock Syndrome.

These bills, along with the continued organized efforts of activists in Michigan will move us closer to a more fair tax system.

Thank you, Representative Matt Hall and committee members for the opportunity to submit my written testimony. I urge the members of this committee to consider voting in favor of House Bill 5267 and 4270.

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Resources:

<https://period.org/uploads/State-of-the-Period-2021.pdf>

https://thepolicyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/State-of-the-Period-white-paper_Thinx_PERIOD.pdf

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fast-facts-nine-things-you-didnt-know-about-menstruation>