

To: Members of the Senate Education Finance and Education Policy Committees

From: Alma Lopez, 320 Lincoln Ave Gaylord MN, 55334

Dear Committee members,

My name is Alma Lopez and I am graduate of Arlington High School and Minnesota State University Mankato. I am writing to you for support of SF 50 which would give people who menstruate free access to necessary products in school bathrooms.

As a person who menstruates, I have experienced first-hand the discomfort of lack of accessible menstrual products. I can recall the moment of panic in middle school when a period came unexpectedly in the middle of class and I did not have the necessary products. From there on, my education became disrupted from embarrassment and discomfort. Having to rush to a bathroom only to find that I did not have the quarters with me to buy a pad or tampon from the menstrual product machines or at times there not even being a dispenser. The only resort being wads of toilet paper or having to ask around for someone to lend me a product. I have heard stories from others having to have a "tab" with the school nurse to receive a menstrual product. These stories are common occurrences within menstruators all of which could be prevented by having accessible and free products within schools. Menstrual products should not be treated as a luxury as they are essential needs. Furthermore, having menstrual products will allow students to better focus on their education and reduce the stigma that surrounds a normal bodily occurrence.