

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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

From Maarit Mattson, 20100 Horseshoe Lane, Mankato, Minnesota

Chair Cwodzinski, Chair Kunesh, and committee members, my name is Maarit Mattson and I am fourteen years old. I am a student at Mankato East High School, and I present this statement in support of SF50; which aims to provide access to free menstrual products in Minnesota school bathrooms.

Providing free period products would remove unnecessary stress from students' everyday lives. Every menstruating individual knows what it's like to be caught off-guard without the supplies you need, but this does not need to be the reality. We can provide students with the period products they need for a safer, more equitable learning experience. Nobody deserves to worry whether they will have access to or be able to afford basic hygiene products while they are at school.

Right now, it is up to students to help provide for themselves and each other. I am currently working with a group of other students to plan a period product drive across my district to make sure that every student has access to the products they need no matter their financial standing.

I am fortunate enough that this is not a concern for me, but many people are not, and access to period products should not be based on the good fortune of the student.