

Testimony of Hazel Powers (written only)

Founding Member & Director of Pantry Management of Honor Moon

Honor Moon Foundation

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation - Supporting SB 435

March 7, 2024

Dear Chair and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Hazel Powers, and I am a junior at Lawrence Free State High School. I am a founding member of Honor Moon, previously President, and currently the Director of Pantry Management. Honor Moon is an inclusive period pantry and non-profit organization located in Lawrence, Kansas. It's accessible for anyone and everyone who menstruates to get the products they need, free of judgment and charge. Honor Moon has had many successful fundraisers and drives that have brought in thousands of dollars worth of products to push back into the community. We have one active pantry and one in the process of being placed at the Lawrence Public Library. As the Director of Pantry Management, I refill the pantry twice a week, and demand has only increased since the beginning. The pantry is emptied almost immediately after it is filled, further showing just how many people struggle to afford these products.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 435, which provides a sales tax exemption for period products, diapers, and incontinence products. We have seen firsthand how many people are in need of these items and cannot get them due to financial circumstances. Currently, in our state, menstrual products are taxed as a 'luxury' item, which could not be further from the truth. This is not only important to me because I am a woman, but also because I have seen the effects of having to choose between buying a meal or buying period products. Menstruation is not something that can be avoided, and the fact that large percentages of our community members struggle to get products that cannot be gone without cannot continue to be swept under the rug. Exempting sales tax in Kansas would greatly benefit Honor Moon and anyone living here, regardless of their economic status.

I thank the committee for considering Senate Bill 435 and for allowing me to express my support for the legislation.

