



Flow Forward Foundation

Proponent – SB 435

Written Testimony

Trisha Rastogi, Neha Katakamshetty, and Sarah Ye

Flow Forward Foundation – Overland Park, KS

To members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation–

The Flow Forward Foundation is a student-led, Overland Park-based organization dedicated to menstrual equity and mitigating the impact of period poverty on vulnerable populations in the Kansas City Metro Area. We affirm support for SB 435, specifically the key proposal that provides a sales tax exemption for period products.

Menstrual products cannot be classified as “hygiene products” without undermining their importance in managing menstruation; rather, they are essential medical devices. Those bleeding in public without the necessary products often suffer from embarrassment, the grim reality of the stigma surrounding menstruation. However, in addition to the heavy taboo surrounding a natural, biological process, they are also forced to contend with an inherently discriminatory and archaic tax. A tax on menstrual products is tantamount to a tax on being a woman. Passing this bill could help integrate conversations about feminine health into broader public discourse, paving the way for future menstrual equity legislation.

Taxing menstrual products is detrimental to all women and girls, but having a period is often more expensive for lower-income families, as they are unable to access the cheaper-per-product price of buying in bulk. Taxes on feminine hygiene products add up over a lifetime, amounting to thousands of dollars. Eliminating the tax can have a beneficial impact on the health of low-income communities, without diverting resources from Kansas state services.

For those who were forced to stretch out menstrual products to the point where they risked a reproductive tract infection, for those who had to choose between purchasing groceries or a box of tampons, and for those who missed school because they couldn't access the products they needed, this bill will make a difference. Please support the more than 600,000 women of menstruating age in the state of Kansas. Please support the wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of Kansas.

Every woman deserves to be able to manage her period safely and with dignity; it's her human right to do so.

Our sincerest thanks,

Trisha Rastogi, Neha Katakamshetty, and Sarah Ye

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