

March 5, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation,

My name is Lila Wheat, and I am a college student from KS District Three. I am writing to encourage you to Vote Yes on SB435. Growing up in a lower-working-class household, I have always known that money does not grow on trees. Yet, it was not until I was sixteen and homeless that I fully understood the extent of that statement. After leaving school one afternoon, I came home to my childhood house on fire. I remember walking into my school the morning after, unsure if what I had gone through was real, and crying to my principal that everything I had known was gone, and I had no clue how we would afford to start over again. My principal reassured me that she, and the rest of the Adult Education staff, were there to help me. Then she proceeded to grab a trash bag and fill it with tampons and pads from the custodian's closet and hand it to me. Such a mundane action meant so much to me at that moment. I know what it is like to not have access to menstrual and hygiene products. I know how hard it can be to get your period and have to make-do with what you have. I know how inhumane this can make someone feel. This is why I urge you to Vote Yes on SB435, so nobody must decide between a meal and period products. This bill can help impoverished families afford these products, and in return, reduce health issues caused by improper hygiene products.

Again, I hope you as our representatives, can understand how crucial accessibility to these products is for so many Kansas residents. I ask you to consider my statements when you make your vote on SB435 and Vote Yes on this bill. I appreciate you taking the time to read this and take my testimony into account.

Sincerely,

Lila Louise Wheat

