

Testimony of Olivia Hazlett (written only)  
Founding member of the Honor Moon Foundation  
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Supporting SB 435

Hello. My name is Olivia Hazlett, I'm 17 years old and I go to Free State High School. I have lived in Lawrence, KS my whole life. I'm here to talk about Senate Bill 435 and abolishing the Period Tax. The bill is advocating for a sales tax exemption for menstrual products, diapers, and incontinence products. Period poverty is a serious issue that prevents menstruating people all over the world from gaining access to products due to financial circumstances. One of the primary causes behind the inability to afford/access products is the unconstitutionally high sales tax that is added. I've experienced and witnessed this first-hand because I am both a founder and board member of the non-profit Honor Moon. Honor Moon is a non-profit in Lawrence that I began with six other girls that supplies period products to the public high schools in town and to our own two personal pantries stationed around town. We supply all products free of charge so that anyone who does not have access to them for financial or other reasons is still able to acquire them. I am the Treasurer so I keep track of how much we spend every month on products; therefore, I have first hand experience with the expense of menstrual products and I can confidently say that they are extremely expensive to supply- especially in large amounts. Honor Moon would be able to purchase and distribute more products if the cost of them was cheaper because we rely solely on monetary donations to fund our organization. People would also donate more products if the cost of them was cheaper which would aid our organization by allowing more products to be received by those who need them. We stock all of the bathrooms in Lawrence High School and Free State High School as well as two pantries located around town multiple times a week. This means that we are always in need of products because as soon as they are donated, they are distributed back to the community. As a girl, this issue is personal to me because I am directly affected by the cost of menstrual products due to needing them in order to function semi-normally for a week out of every month. Many people cannot afford basic necessities because of the cost. This bill is important and impacts Kansas because it would provide financial relief to menstruating people and their families. Will you vote in support of bill 435?