

Good morning! I am writing in support of HB 2111 which would immediately eliminate state sales tax on food items, and hopefully, on feminine hygiene items as well.

The school district here, district, USD 480, Liberal, is one of the more challenging ones in the state. Demographics indicate that schools serve as a revolving door through which families and students pass on a regular basis. As of August, 2022, about 82% of students were hispanic and of an estimated 4,600 anticipated students (I think it's actually 4,700 at this point), 3,100 were anticipated to be free lunches and another 500 to be reduced.

Although the main employer here, National Beef, has increased wages due to Covid, the brutal fact is that this corner of the state has probably the highest cost of living in Kansas. Rent, utilities, food, and energy costs more here. My youngest son lives in KC and when I visit, I like to compare prices. Liberal does not fare well.

As a 68 year old woman, I don't have to worry about feeding a family any more, nor do I worry about feminine hygiene products, but in talking to personnel in the school system, I've learned that many of our students don't have enough to eat at home, and that many girls at the middle/high school level regularly miss days each month because they don't have feminine supplies to take to school. I went to WalMart to look at prices and decided I would probably be missing days, also; the price of feminine hygiene products is ridiculous. As is par for the course in corporate America, they get you over the barrel and then they make life as difficult as possible.

I strongly urge all of you to vote with your conscience, not with your corporate backers in this matter. The Kansas Legislature has a severe image problem, this would at least make people look upon you more kindly.

Sincerely,
Sara Carrillo