



RE: Support for SB 377 – As it Relates to the Exemption on the Sale of Feminine Hygiene Products from the State Sales Tax

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 9:30 am, Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Oral testimony in Support of SB 377 by Becca Houlehan of Leawood, KS. Joining Virtually

Hello. My name is Becca Houlehan, and I am co-founder of Equity.Period., along with my friend, Izzy Zschoche. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 377.

At some point in our lives, likely even at present, we all take prescription medication. Sometimes they're reactively prescribed, but often we take them as a preventative—to prevent illness, disease, and discomfort.

If we fill our prescriptions in Kansas, they're not taxed. And, truly? They shouldn't be. Society is healthier as a whole when we are all at our best.

The same could be said for period products, like pads and tampons. They serve to protect both the wearer and the larger community. Period products prevent illness and discomfort. Like preventative medication, they ensure people don't miss school or work. However, they are taxed. Taxed—at minimum—at an astounding 6.5%. These products are expensive to begin with, so with the addition of tax, cost becomes a very real barrier for those with tight budgets.

Access to period products ensures safe and healthy menstrual cycles, which in turn means young menstruators go to school and adults go to work. Half of the population, HALF, needs these products in their pursuit of education and a living. By taxing these necessities so heavily, we are reinforcing a very real inequity in our society.

On the other hand, repealing the tax shows that we, as a state, promote gender equity, female empowerment, and basic human rights. Instead of taxing menstruators based purely on their genetic make-up, we ask that you invest in the menstruators of today. Please remove this heavy financial burden that targets 50% of the state's population.

Thank you for your consideration.