

Proponent - SB377
Oral Testimony
Trisha Rastogi, Neha Katakamshetty, and Sarah Ye
Flow Forward Foundation

To members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation,

Hello. We're Trisha Rastogi, Neha Katakamshetty, and Sarah Ye, of the Flow Forward Foundation, a high school student-run, Overland Park-based community project. Since July 2023, we've been dedicated to alleviating the impact of period poverty on vulnerable populations in the KC Metro Area. To further our mission, we have collected and donated more than 12,000 menstrual hygiene products to organizations in our community.

We support SB377 because it will eliminate the sales tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products immediately. Menstrual products are not simply "hygiene products;" rather, they are basic medical necessities for managing periods safely and with dignity. Just like prescription drugs, these necessities should be exempt from sales tax. A tax on menstrual products is tantamount to a tax on being a woman.

For many low-income menstruators, in-kind donations from organizations like ours are the only means by which they can acquire menstrual products, due to their unaffordability and inaccessibility. Enforcing a sales tax only exacerbates the problem, and it adds up over a lifetime, amounting to thousands of dollars. Eliminating the tax will have a beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of low-income communities.

For the 1 in 7 Kansan women of menstruating age below the federal poverty line, we can do better; we should not be accruing state revenue at their expense (Alliance for Period Supplies, 2021). Kansas must follow in the footsteps of twenty-five other states, affirming a strong commitment to the betterment of menstruators' lives, public health, and gender equity. We hope girls like us can grow up in a Kansas that supports us and our essential medical needs.

Thank you for your time,
Trisha Rastogi, Neha Katakamshetty, and Sarah Ye
Flow Forward Foundation