

To: Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee and the Senate Education Policy Committee

From: Danith Clausen
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Farwell MN 56327

Chair Cwodzinski, Chair Kunesh, and members of the committees,

My name is Danith Clausen. I am a retired Minnesota educator. For over three decades I worked in rural schools. I submit this statement in support of SF50, which would provide access to free menstrual products in Minnesota school bathrooms.

Minnesotans value education. We want all of our students to reach their full potential. The conversations I have with my son and my niece, both teachers, often come to a sadly familiar conclusion: You can't teacher a student who isn't there. A student should not be forced to stay home from school five days (or more) every four weeks because her family cannot afford to buy menstrual products for her, and she cannot afford them for herself. "Period poverty" disrupts a student's learning, piling up absences and negatively impacting her ability to succeed.

SF50 has the ability to reduce absenteeism for students in poverty by providing simple necessities that are no different from toilet paper or paper towels. This bill can make sure our students are "period secure," able to concentrate on their studies instead of worrying about their menstrual cycles. I ask that you support providing access to free menstrual products in school bathrooms.

Thank you for keeping the well-being of our students in mind while you do your important work.