

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

From: Halimah Abdullah, 42 98th Ln NW Coon Rapids

Chair Cwodzinski, Chair Kunesh, and committee members, my name is Halimah Abdullah and I am a student of Southwest High School. I provide this statement in support of SF50, which would provide access to menstrual products in Minnesota school bathrooms.

I believe this was about a couple of months ago when an incident happened relating to a lack of period products in my school. I was in the middle of class and I abruptly had the realization I had gotten my period. It made sense because I was cramping all morning. I immediately asked to use the restroom and as I was walking towards it, I was praying there would be a pad inside, put in there by the kindness of someone's heart because there are no school issued period products nor ones you can purchase. I of course found none in there and I painfully walked awkwardly to the nurses office across the hall to ask for a pad and the nurse told me, even if they had pads, which they didn't, I would need a special health pass to receive one. And I was nowhere near comfortable asking my male teacher for a pass to get one. I had asked about 5 different girls if they had a pad before I received one. My story isn't as nearly as embarrassing or demoralizing as some of my other friends and peers who have had worse incidents relating to lack of period products in the bathroom. If the chairs and committee were to decide to to put menstrual products in the school bathrooms, so many more students could have less of a negative experience having a period, and will allow menstruating students to not have the burden of worrying where they will get their next period product, so they can continue the rest of their day at school in comfort. Thank you.