



January 3, 2023

Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

Thank you for giving Legal Aid the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of legislation requiring schools to provide access to menstrual products in restrooms at no charge to students.

Legal Aid represents thousands of Minnesotans with low incomes statewide in civil legal matters, and specifically here, we represent students who may not have access to menstrual products at home.

Our statewide surveys of parents accessing the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) have mentioned menstrual products as a top five affordability concern for parents and their youth. MFIP cash assistance benefits are extremely low and must be stretched to pay for several critical basic needs, including rent, utilities, and transportation. Parents and youth are prohibited from using federal SNAP benefits toward menstrual products, and these items are difficult to find at many food shelves that do stock other basic household supplies.

Legal Aid supports all efforts to ensure that youth have the support they need to take care of their menstrual health. A family's inability to afford menstrual products can cause extreme stress to the parents and youth in that household, and the public stigma around periods remains strong.

We thank Senator Cwodzinski for carrying this important legislation and we appreciate that the Senate is giving this issue of equity serious consideration.

Thank you for your time.

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