

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Haley Archibeque, I live at and attend the University of Maine in Orono. I'm writing today to ask you to support LD 348: An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools.

Menstruation and lack of access to menstruation products in public bathrooms is an issue that affects everyone, across all genders.

When students don't have access to affordable menstruation products they may use the ones they do have for longer than it's safe to do so, or use alternative products such as paper towels or toilet paper which can be a massive health risk. One survey from 2021 found that nearly a quarter of teenagers said they've struggled to find affordable menstrual products, and 16% of them reported going without other necessities like food and clothing in order to purchase period products. The problem is likely much worse now due to the 2022 tampon shortage which increased the price of tampons by 10%.

Maine is one of several states where bills addressing the availability of menstrual products are being debated. If passed, Maine would be one of seventeen states to recognize the necessity of menstruation products for adolescents.

Please support LD 348 to give all Maine students, regardless of gender, access to adequate menstruation products that they may not have access to outside of school. Thank you so much for your time.