

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

My name is Sam Slavin and I live and grew up in Orono, Maine. I am writing today to ask you to support LD 348: An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools

Lacking access to menstrual obstructs educational engagement.

The need for menstrual products spans across all genders. Menstrual products are needed in every bathroom.

My body does not have a need for menstrual products, but this issue has impacted me. Lacking access to these products affects everyone, not just those who use them. In high school, most of my friends were people who used menstrual products. However, numerous times, my friends did not have access to needed tampons or pads. During the school day, when they forgot to bring their products, I would help my friends frantically run around the school looking to see if any other friends had any products they could share. This disrupted our class time.

This was especially relevant to my friends who are trans-men and or non-binary. Very occasionally, donated pads were put in the women's restroom. However, this was never the case for the men's restroom. There was no gender-neutral restroom, but products must be made available in these as well.

Starting at the age of 15, I would purchase, with my own money, menstrual products for my friends to avoid educational disruption. The fact that a 15-year-old boy has to buy products for his friends casts light on the severity of this issue. This is frustrating to me and does not feel right. Menstrual products are a human right. They must be made free and accessible in Maine schools, in **all** bathrooms.

Please support LD 348 to protect health-based rights, provide access to menstrual products in **all** bathrooms, and prevent educational disruption. Thank you for your time.