



**MaineTrans.Net**  
*redefining gender*



Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony of Maine Transgender Network & EqualityMaine  
**LD 348: "An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools"**  
May 9, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Quinn Gormley, I use she/her pronouns, and I am here today as the Executive Director of the Maine Transgender Network, Maine's sole organization specifically dedicated to supporting transgender people and those who love us, as well as EqualityMaine in enthusiastic support of **LD 348, "An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools."**

Much of the other testimony today highlights the serious equity concerns with the availability of menstrual products. People who menstruate need these products, yet too many struggle to access them. Young people, with no control over the conditions of their lives, should not have their education and development interrupted just because they cannot afford, or perhaps forgot as we all do sometimes, a hygiene product they need.

We are especially pleased that this bill is drafted in a gender inclusive manner. As our society grows increasingly inclusive, an understanding that more people than cisgender women require these products is growing. Simply put, it is important that we keep the "men" in "menstruation." Trans boys, and nonbinary people assigned female at birth that may choose to use the boy's room at school have need of these products too and they deserve to be included.

That said, there are more reasons than transgender inclusion to put these products in the boy's room. Young men are increasingly aware of the needs of their peers. They wish to be supportive of their friends, their romantic partners, and their siblings who menstruate. Perhaps their sister is experiencing her first period and is embarrassed and unsure what to do in the middle of the school day. A kind brother could be supportive in this moment and grab her products she needs from the bathroom, reducing her chances of being spotted getting them herself. Including these products in the boy's room will make offering this support easier and less stigmatizing.

This bill is a simple solution to a long overlooked problem. We urge you to vote ought to pass and to support the implementing funding of this bill.

Thank you,

Quinn Gormley  
On behalf of: MaineTransNet, EqualityMaine