

Testimony for Public Hearing

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

April 20, 2021

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In support of (L.D. 452) “An Act To Require Certain Schools To Provide Menstrual Products”

April 16, 2021

Senator Matthea Daughtry, Representative Michael Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

I am on the executive board of the Maine Association of School Nurses and serve as the Maine Director on the board of the National Association of School Nurses. Currently, I am employed as the school nurse for Camden Hills Regional High School (CHRHS) and the advisor to student Health and Human Wellness Club, whose mission is “to keep our students and community healthy”. On behalf of the our group, please consider the following testimony in support of L.D. 452 “An Act to Require Certain Schools To Provide Menstrual Products.”

Several years ago, the One Less Worry organization provided free menstrual products for our school that were available in the nurse’s office. This helped those that had trouble affording products and perhaps having to miss school. However, this still did not solve the problem of having to unnecessarily miss class time by needing to go to the nurse office for supplies and, at times, have to wait to see the nurse. Discussion regarding these issues with our administration led to free menstrual products being placed in all of our bathrooms.

At CHRHS, we now have the benefit of free menstrual products in all of our bathrooms. But we know this is not the situation in most middle and high schools in Maine. We want all schools to have equal access through Maine. Menstrual products are a basic hygiene need and should be considered as such by all schools. Providing menstrual products is also a gender equality issue.

For these reasons, the CHRHS Health and Human Wellness Club supports L.D. 452 “An Act to Require Certain Schools to Provide Menstrual Products”.

Sincerely,

Camden Hills Regional High School Health and Human Wellness Club

Janis Hogan BUS, RN, NCSN, School Nurse/ Club Advisor

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