



May 9, 2023

RE: LD 348 (HP 222), An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools (SUPPORT)

Dear Chairman Rafferty, Chairman Brennan, Members of the Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

On behalf of ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, I am writing in SUPPORT of LD 348. If enacted, this bill would ensure access to period products across Maine by requiring free period products in schools. Access to menstrual products is a necessity for female students, yet most schools do not provide these hygiene products like are required to do for toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap. This can lead to students missing school or being unable to fully participate in class because they do not have access to the products they need.

According to State of the Period 2021, a study commissioned by Thinx & PERIOD, “84% (more than 4 in 5 teens) have either missed class time or know someone who missed class time because they did not have access to period products.” Providing menstrual products in middle and high school bathrooms would help ensure that students have access to the products they need to manage their periods, reducing the burden on them and their families, and allowing them to participate in school without interruption.

[ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry](#) has more than 10,500 members worldwide including 22 member companies in Maine. ISSA represents the full spectrum of the cleaning industry’s supply-chain—including distributors, manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, wholesalers, building service contractors, in-house service providers, residential cleaners, and associated service members. This gives ISSA a unique perspective regarding the need for increased access to period products and disposal solutions in away-from-home bathrooms.

ISSA believes menstrual care solutions are an essential hygiene product that should be made as available in schools bathrooms as soap, toilet paper, and paper towels. Unfortunately, far too few schools consider the stigma of being left unprepared while away from home without necessary menstrual care products.

LD 348 – would have a significant impact on the education and physical health of Maine students.

For these reasons, ISSA is pleased to SUPPORT LD 348 and stand ready to help schools implement this policy by supplying them with the [best practices for menstrual care](#) in bathrooms if passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Nothdurft", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Nothdurft

ISSA - Director of Government Affairs