

Date of Hearing: Monday, February 14, 2022

To: Members of the House Education Policy Committee

From: Jessica Edelheit, St. Louis Park Middle School

Chair Richardson and members of the committee, my name is Jessica Edelheit and I am a tenured teacher at St. Louis Park Middle School. I provide this statement in support of HF 2750, which would provide access to menstrual products in Minnesota school bathrooms.

We can all agree that students staying in class is a priority, as that's where the growth and learning happens. When females are menstruating they often need to go to the nurse to get supplies before they use the restroom. This results in students being out of class for 10-15 minutes. To have period products available in bathrooms would help get our menstruating students back to class in a timely manner. Some teachers pay out of pocket to keep a supply of products in our classrooms to avoid this and teachers are already supplying pencils, notebooks, books, and more. In addition, it's time we got over hiding pads in our pockets and being embarrassed about our natural selves. Today's girls should be able to rewrite the history of what it means to have their period at school. Student voice is important and we need to honor their voices and needs by supplying them with period products in an easily accessible place that is not dependent on their teachers' paychecks.