

In Support of HB22-1055: Sales Tax Exemption Essential Hygiene Products

House Finance Committee Hearing

February 14, 2022

To: Members of the Colorado General Assembly and the Finance Committee

My name is Audra Pirus, I'm an 8th grade student at Denver Language School. I'm writing to **support HB22-1055** because removing the tampon tax eliminates the unequal discrimination that this tax produces between men and women. Also, eliminating this tax could make it easier for all women to obtain these feminine hygiene products.

Here are examples of the problems and inequities this tax creates:

- The average woman or girl spends \$13.25 a month on feminine hygiene products (that's **\$6,360** in an average woman's reproductive lifetime).
- This tax considers feminine hygiene products as luxury items, when they should be considered **basic necessity** items because girls and women can't control their periods.
- Because the tampon tax adds an **extra charge** on menstrual products, this tax makes it harder for women and girls to pay for.
- A study shows that **1 in 5 teens** are having problems affording feminine hygiene products.
- It's also a matter of **fairness**. The tampon tax makes gender **inequality** more severe because men are not usually taxed on products only used by men.
- The sales tax is not only gender biased, it's also likely **unconstitutional**. Men and women should be taxed equally.

I hope the Colorado General Assembly passes this bill. Even though a 2.9% tax might not seem like much, it's a small step in the right direction. There are 12 states that have gotten rid of this tax, **let's be the 13th**. Let's show what Colorado can do!

In the future, I hope the legislature makes feminine hygiene products free, because many women and girls turn to harmful materials to manage their periods because they can't afford tampons and pads.

Respectfully,

Audra Pirus

sources:

- https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0795/1599/files/State-of-the-Period-white-paper_Thinx_PERIOD.pdf?455788
- <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/11/29/menstrual-products-diapers-sales-tax-colorado/>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jenniferpalumbo/2021/04/15/how-one-company-is-addressing-period-poverty-and-tampon-tax/?sh=7ea77df30f9>
- [https://swnsdigital.com/us/2019/11/new-research-reveals-how-much-the-average-woman-spends-per-month-on-menstrual-products/#:~:text=Results%20revealed%20the%20average%20woman,\(ages%2012%2D52\).](https://swnsdigital.com/us/2019/11/new-research-reveals-how-much-the-average-woman-spends-per-month-on-menstrual-products/#:~:text=Results%20revealed%20the%20average%20woman,(ages%2012%2D52).)