

Testimony of Giova Rubenstein (written only)
Co-founder and Vice President of Honor Moon Period Pantry Foundation
Honor Moon Foundation
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation – supporting SB 435
March 7, 2024

Dear Chair and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Giova Rubenstein, and I am the Vice President and Director of Communications and Outreach for Honor Moon. I am a founding member of Honor Moon and a junior at Lawrence High School. Myself and six friends founded Honor Moon three years ago, during the summer after 8th grade. Honor Moon is a local non-profit organization that provides free access to period products for members of our community in need of support. We currently supply period products to all public high schools in Lawrence and to one public pantry, with a second one in the works; they are accessible to the broader Lawrence community. Our organization relies on fundraising, donations, and community engagement in order to supply these fundamental healthcare products to people in need.

SB 435 matters to Honor Moon because, by removing the taxation on healthcare items, specifically period products, we will be better able to meet the needs of our community. When supplies are depleted, we must purchase products subject to sales tax, which limits our ability to provide support for people in need. This is also a matter of preserving people's dignity and recognizing that this is a basic human need, and we should be removing hurdles. Keeping a sales tax limits access to these necessary healthcare products and unfairly impacts people from lower socioeconomic groups. The legislature should vote to pass this bill because there are thousands of people in our community dependent on menstrual products in order to be able to go to school, show up for work, and be contributing members of society.

I respectfully ask the committee to support SB 435. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important topic.

Sincerely,
Giova Rubenstein (she/her)