

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1953

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE

Hearing Date: March 24, 2021 8:00 AM

Sereen Qader

Period.utarlington, self, Chapter President

Arlington, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Sereen Qader and I live TX House District 94. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Period.utarlington, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

Our organization is founded and run by college students who have a simple goal in distributing period products to those in need within our community. We were not aware that menstrual products have no liability protection. This puts our organization and the work we do at great risk.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible so we may continue serving our community with liable protection. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincere Regards,
Sereen Qader.

Maddox Flores

self, Student at University of Texas at Arlington

Chillicothe, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Maddox Flores and I live TX House District 68. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Period.UTArlington, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Our organization is founded and run by college students who have a simple goal in distributing period products to those in need within our community. So far we have donated over 1,300 period products to 100+ women who don't have a place to call home. We were not aware that menstrual products have no liability protection. This puts our organization and the work we do at great risk.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible so we may continue serving our community with liable protection. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincere Regards,
Maddox Flores

Jessica Ontiberos
self

Garland, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Jessica Ontiberos and I live TX House District 107. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Period.utarlington, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

Our organization is founded and run by college students who have a simple goal in distributing period products to those in need within our community. So far we have donated over 1,300 period products to 100+ women who don't have a place to call home. We were not aware that menstrual products have no liability protection. This puts our organization and the work we do at great risk.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible so we may continue serving our community with liable protection. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincere Regards,
Jessica Ontiberos

Tamkeen Ashraf, Regarding HB 1953

Period. at UTA

Irving, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Tamkeen Ashraf and I live TX House District 105. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Period.utarlinton, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

Our organization is founded and run by college students who have a simple goal in distributing period products to those in need within our community. So far we have donated over 1,300 period products to 100+ women who don't have a place to call home. We were not aware that menstrual products have no liability protection. This puts our organization and the work we do at great risk.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible so we may continue serving our community with liable protection. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincere Regards,
Tamkeen Ashraf

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Emily Gatlin

Flo Code

Austin, TX

My name is Emily Gatlin, and I live in Texas House District 48. I am the Education Director for Flo Code. Flo Code is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Austin. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a public comment.

Flo Code has provided underserved communities of the Central Texas area with over 500,000 menstrual products since 2017. We service over 30 organizations and over 70 Central Texas schools. We fill a much overlooked need for menstrual products in homeless communities, Title I schools, and for disaster victims (including recent winter storm Uri).

Although our organization takes great care to maintain the highest sanitation level with our donated products, we do not have the deserved liability protection that similar donated items have since menstrual products are “Class 2” according to the FDA. Texas providing us this protection will allow us to continue this important and necessary work with greater ease and the liability protection we need.

Flo Code submits these comments in support of HB 1953 and asks for the committee’s full support of HB 1953 so that we may continue serving our community and fighting period poverty.

Melissa Campbell

Menstrual Flux

Houston, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Melissa Campbell and I live TX House District #147. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Menstrual Flux, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don’t, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don’t necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. During this time Menstrual Flux has served an estimated average of 50-75 individuals per month (mailing out period care kits and distributing them at events/orgs). Therefore distributed an estimated average of 1,000 menstrual products per month. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn’t have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Melissa Campbell

Ghazal Yadav

Self

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Ghazal Yadav and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible! Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Ghazal Yadav

Chitresh Yadav

Self

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Chitresh Yadav and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As my daughter is a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texasns have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Chitresh Yadav

Poorvi Rathod

Self

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Poorvi Rathod and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As my daughter is a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texasns have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Poorvi Rathod

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

SUPPORT

Neha Chelamkuri

Code Crimson

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

I am Neha Chelamkuri and I live in House District 33. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my input. As part of a small menstrual equity organization, Code Crimson, this bill directly affects me and others in my organization. I have donated products before and as part of Code Crimson, and we organize product drives to donate to menstruators in need in our community. We have collected over 2200 products and under this bill, we could be liable for menstrual products that are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. This takes away from the intent of our organization and deters individuals from donating to people in need especially during times such as the snowstorm and current pandemic that has worsened the living situations of many Texans. Receiving this liability protection would leave a positive impact on our community and allow us to safely continue to provide these donations. I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible especially when products such as food and household items do receive liability protection. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit my comment.

Sincerely,

Neha Chelamkuri

Meaghan Harraghy

Self, Engineer

Dallas, TX

This bill is necessary because period products are sold at a premium for something that is a biological process. Being able to donate and distribute these items to those who may not be in a place to afford them should not give the donator the liability. The problem with liability for products like tampons is that TSS or Toxic Shock Syndrome is a risk of using the product and if this happens with donated products, then someone who was trying to help is now in a vulnerable situation.

Sreshta Ghosh

Code Crimson

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Sreshta Ghosh and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Sreshta Ghosh

Rajashi Ghosh
Code Crimson
Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Rajashi Ghosh and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Rajashi Ghosh

Somu Ghosh
Code Crimson
Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Somu Ghosh and I live TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide

liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Somu Ghosh

Aditya Mudgal
Code Crimson
Mckinney, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Aditya Mudgal and I live TX House District #70. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Aditya Mudgal

Andrea Elizondo
Menstrual Flux & Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Andrea Elizondo and I live in TX House District 50. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As an organizer for the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and a volunteer at Menstrual Flux, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

Menstrual Flux is a small nonprofit based in Austin and Houston led by me and a friend. We do this on the side while we work our normal full-time jobs. Menstrual Flux provides menstrual products to anyone who is in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been mailing period care kits to Texans throughout the state, donating to local schools and shelters on a monthly basis, and donated kits to local community drives. During the aftermath of the recent snowstorm, we donated kits to many urgently planned food drives in the local area. Our kits have enough menstrual products to supply one menstrual cycle. The need is still great and we have had folks who have made repeated requests because they are still laid off.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable cloth pads, menstrual cups, period underwear are included in this classification. Menstrual Flux has given all of these products for people in-need and most of these products have been donated to us from individuals. The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations who are stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection through the Good Samaritan Act (42 U.S. Code § 1791) since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to make in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, evictions, and the snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

Sincerely,
Andrea Elizondo

Joe Jeni Varghese

Code Crimson

Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Joe Jeni Varghese, and I live in TX House District #3. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have the control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will at the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Joe

Zoe Kass
Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition & The Period Pact Houston
Bellaire, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Zoe Kass, and I live TX House District #134. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. I am writing in support of HB 1953 as both an organizer for the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and as the Advocacy Director of the Period Pact Houston.

The Period Pact Houston has donated thousands of menstrual products to schools and shelters across the city. The Period Pact is one of many groups in Texas that works to fight period poverty by collecting and distributing products to those who need them most. Period poverty- which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies)- must be fought through generous donations of period supplies. Anything that deters donations adds to the list challenges that tackling this issue presents.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's classification of some menstrual products as "Class 2" medical products makes us and other donors of these products liable for their quality.

U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty. If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should step up and protect the interests of the generous volunteers who work to help those in need.

Menstrual products should join food and household donations in their status as being protected from liability to ensure that people donate without hesitation so that products can get to every Texan who receives support from these individuals and organizations.

My personal experience with holding donation drives for menstrual products has shown the wide variety of products that people donate. We cannot control and regulate the products we receive outside of ensuring that everything appears sealed and untampered with. We place trust in those donating to us and hope that they too have the interests of the donations' recipients at heart. Elementary, middle, and high schools as well as community organizations and shelters have benefited from products donated by the Period Pact. However, we can do so much more to help these groups. Protection from liability would mean removing doubt and hesitation. It would remove a small (but significant) barrier that comes between our efforts and the people we aim to serve. Liability protection would help us to grow our impact and do more for the schools we supply.

This legislation has the potential to help many organizers and advocates across the state. I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Zoe Kass

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Meghana Anam
Code Crimson
Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Meghana Anam and I live in TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and the co-founder of Code Crimson, a fiscally sponsored 501c3 aiming to promote menstrual equity, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Code Crimson, the organization I co-founded in 2020, is very concerned about the state of period poverty in Texas and has been dedicated to supporting menstruators in marginalized communities through the distribution of donated menstrual products, which is why this bill is very important for me. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will in the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Meghana Anam

Nandini Anam
self, Homemaker
Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Nandini Anam and I live in TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As an ally of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and menstrual equity organization Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered “Class 2” medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Printed on: April 4, 2021 7:16 PM

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will in the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Nandini Anam

Srinivasa Anam
self, Software Engineer
Frisco, TX

Dear Chairman Jeff Leach, Vice Chairwoman Yvonne Davis, and House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Members,

My name is Srinivasa Anam and I live in TX House District #33. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As an ally of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and menstrual equity organization Code Crimson, I am writing in support of HB 1953.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some menstrual products are considered "Class 2" medical products. Within this classification, scented and unscented menstrual pads, tampons, reusable pads, menstrual cups, The products in this classification have liability, which can deter some people from donating menstrual products. U.S. Congress has failed to provide liability protection for individuals and community organizations stepping up to fight period poverty, which 1 in 5 menstruators between the age of 12 and 44 in Texas experience (Alliance for Period Supplies). If U.S. Congress cannot provide liability protection, Texas should fill in this gap.

Food and household donations have had liability protection from the federal government since 1996 but menstrual products still don't, and it has been long overdue. Local menstrual organizations don't necessarily have control of which menstrual products are donated because we are dependent on the generosity of individuals to donate in-kind donations. Providing liability protection for donated menstrual products would positively impact the supply of donated menstrual products, which will in the end help people who need these products the most.

Texans have had a rough year with the COVID-19 pandemic, job and income losses, eviction, and snowstorm. It is times like these when our community needs us the most and we shouldn't have to fear donating menstrual products because of liability concerns.

I request that you please vote this out of committee as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide menstrual products.

Sincerely,
Srinivasa Anam