

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education  
For HB 4199

Compiled on: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 10:36 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: May 2, 2023 8:00 AM

Penny Bradshaw, Ms.

Retired

Spring, TX

Thank you for filing this bill. I am in complete agreement of the bill and support its passage.

Keep up the good work!

Chris Donofrio

Self / Parent

The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 4199.

Please pass it out of committee quickly.

As the father of a daughter, I can't believe it's taken so long to do this.

Respectfully,

Chris J. Donofrio

Jane Chesney

self, retired educator

The Woodlands, TX

This is so basic and important for the female students who might otherwise stay home from school. Feminine hygiene products are very expensive and should be provided at school for any young woman who needs them. Please vote YES on this bill.

Erin Throckmorton

Self/Program Manager

Spring, TX

I happen to be a mom of all boys, one of which is at a Title 1 school where the nurse had to beg the parents to purchase menstrual products for students in order to provide them to those students that cannot afford to purchase them on their own. The ability for female students to be present in class and participate with the additional of sanitary products is a simple solution to provide the first step in equitable education in Texas. Please consider voting YES to this bill.

Claire Moore  
Self, student  
Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Brad Buckley, Vice Chairwoman Alma Allen, and House Public Education Committee Members,

My name is Claire Moore and I live in TX House District 46. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition and an organizer at the Ann Richards School Period Club, I am writing to support HB 4199.

HB 4199 will increase school attendance because students will have access to menstrual products in school restrooms. According to a study by SKDK Online and Harris Insights & Analytics, 4 in 5 teenagers have either missed class time or know a classmate who has missed class time because they did not have access to period products. The lack of access to menstrual products at schools contributes to education disparities among students. Our students deserve better.

I've seen first hand as an ambassador with my school's menstrual equity organization how lack of access to period products effects my peers. Even at a girl's school, the tampon dispensers in our restrooms remain empty, pads are few and far between, and some students are left unable to attend classes because they don't have access to basic personal hygiene. I encourage you to reflect on what this would be like for you as a student. Imagine having to bring your own roll of toilet paper to school each day, or your own soap. These are hygiene products we expect all public bathrooms to have, and rightfully so. What makes menstrual products any different?

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,  
Claire Moore

Itzia Paulina Cumes Irurita  
Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition  
Roanoke, TX

Dear Chairman Brad Buckley, Vice Chairwoman Alma Allen, and House Public Education Committee Members,

My name is Itzia Paulina and I live in TX House District #63. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. As a member of the Texas Menstrual Equity Coalition, I am writing to support HB 4199.

HB 4199 will increase school attendance because students will have access to menstrual products in school restrooms. According to a study by SKDK Online and Harris Insights & Analytics, 4 in 5 teenagers have either missed class time or know a classmate who has missed class time because they did not have access to period products. The lack of access to menstrual products at schools contributes to education disparities among students. Our students deserve better.

I have been that student, and I desire a better future for menstruators and our society.

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,  
Itzia Paulina

Mariah Reyna  
Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders  
Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Brad Buckley, Vice Chairwoman Alma Allen, and House Public Education Committee Members,

My name is Mariah Reyna 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 the Ann Richards School period club, I am writing to support HB 4199.

HB 4199 will increase school attendance because students will have access to menstrual products in school restrooms. According to a study by SKDK Online and Harris Insights & Analytics, 4 in 5 teenagers have either missed class time or know a classmate who has missed class time because they did not have access to period products. The lack of access to menstrual products at schools contributes to education disparities among students. Our students deserve better.

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,  
Mariah Reyna

Kathryn Kizer  
Access Education RRISD  
Austin, TX

I am generally for this bill, but it is unfunded. Please fund this bill.

Delaina Bishop  
Self/ Parent of young school age children in public schools  
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill, but this should be funded by the state.

Ann-Marie Kennedy  
SELF  
Conroe, TX

I'm in full support of this bill to provide menstrual products for students. This could easily help improve attendance. Menstrual products are as necessary as toilet paper.

Joslynn Sanchez  
Deeds Not Words  
Kyle, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee members,

I urge you to pass House Bill 4199 for the health of Texas students.

Menstruating while attending school is an inevitable struggle for our students. I recall moments in my middle and high school life where I had to ask teachers for menstrual products, which came out of my teacher's own pocket, or gave up and decided to go home because products were not available to me.

Providing free and accessible menstrual products should not be seen as a luxury, but rather a necessity at all grade levels. Students of all ages can start their period at any time in their life and the key to an equitable educational experience is ensuring their needs are met throughout the school day especially regarding health and hygiene.

Deeds Not Words represents young people throughout Texas who widely support the free access to menstrual products in schools. We urge you to pass this bill in support of our students, their health, and their education. Thank you.

Annette Martinez, Ms.  
Self Retired Special Education Teacher  
Austin, TX

I am for HB 4199.

Providing menstrual products is no different than supplying toilet paper. It is a necessary hygiene product that school nurses and teachers should not have to pay for out of their pockets.

As a special education teacher in elementary schools, I witnessed firsthand many girls begin their first period at school. If schools did not have products on hand, those girls missed class until a staff member could obtain some from a store. Many times girls had to wait until a family member could bring them menstrual products. Often, by that time, the girls would have to go home to change their blood stained clothes, missing more instruction.

From my own experience, my periods in my teens were highly irregular. They would vary from 23 days to 34 days. I never knew how long they would last or how heavy they would be on any given day. Even I, a highly organized and meticulous planner as a teen, found myself caught off guard on several occasions. Being involved in extracurricular activities made planning even more complicated.

Please pass this long overdue bill.

Hayden Cohen

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT)

Houston, TX

I am with an organization called SEAT (Students Engaged in Advancing Texas) and we urge you to support this bill. This bill would take a large step to aid in ending period poverty which is an issue that many Texas students face. In the United States, an estimated 23 percent of students have struggled to buy menstrual supplies, according to a 2021 study, "State of the Period: The widespread impact of period poverty on US students." Sixty-five percent of students surveyed said they do not want to be at school when they have their periods, and 38 percent reported not being able to do their best schoolwork often or sometimes because of insufficient access to period products. A 2019 version of this study found that 84 percent of teens have missed class or know someone who has because of this issue.

This bill would help end the stigma around periods and would keep these students in class during their time of the month. As a student, I've faced countless times when I started my period at school and hadn't brought a pad or my classmates would awkwardly ask around trying to find someone that could give them a tampon so they could stuff it in their sleeve quietly and walk to the bathroom to use. This bill would solve all these issues and require these products in restrooms. Austin and Fort Worth ISDs have already recognized this investment was worth it and put menstrual products in restrooms. The rest of Texas needs to follow their lead. Support this bill, please.

Lueng Tcheung

Self

Austin, TX

Please approve this bill because students are missing class because they do not have access to menstrual products. Also having access will help reduce disparities.

Solange Hommel

self, retired

Killeen, TX

I support public schools making menstrual products freely available.

Carmen Casamayor-Ryan, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Stop taxing feminine products. It amounts to gender discrimination.

Amber Downing

Self - SAHM

Austin, TX

I fully support the passing of HB 4199. Supplying schools menstrual products free of charge would be such a great thing for Texas students. This would allow students to be able to focus on learning more fully, instead of worrying about the lack of products to care for a bodily function. Having these products available in school bathrooms also takes some stress off students in situations where surprises and accidents can be very upsetting.

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Hearing Date: May 2, 2023 8:00 AM

Katherine Raney  
Self. Program Specialist.  
Bastrop, TX

I support this bill.

Carol Midboe  
Self  
Austin, TX

I fully support the provision of free menstrual products in public schools. Access to menstrual products is a basic necessity for those who menstruate, and it is unacceptable that some students may not have access to these products due to financial constraints or other barriers. Providing free menstrual products in schools can help to alleviate the stigma and shame that many students face around menstruation, and it can also help to ensure that students can focus on their education without the distraction or discomfort of inadequate menstrual product access. Ultimately, providing free menstrual products in public schools is a crucial step towards ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn and thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Analisa Cantu  
Austin Diaper Bank  
Austin, TX

No Texas student should ever have to miss class because they didn't have enough period products. Sadly, this happens to 25% of students in our state. Period poverty is a real crisis that affects thousands in our school system. Texas can prioritize students' education and well-being by providing them with the supplies they need to thrive in the classroom; this includes period products.

L Quentin Dixon  
Self/concerned citizen  
Spring, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 4199. This important bill will help reduce school absenteeism due to the lack of access to menstrual products. Because menstruation can begin without warning, providing menstrual products for free at schools would ensure that menstruating students have access to the products at the time that they need them. In addition, many students cannot afford to purchase an adequate supply of these products themselves; this bill would ensure that no one misses school because she has no way to hygienically capture her menstrual fluid.

Carol Ortiz  
self/retired  
Montgomery, TX

Please support HB 4199. This is important for female students who have an unexpected need for these menstrual products, also for many students who can't afford them. Providing access will increase equity and could reduce absenteeism caused by lack of access to sanitary products.

Jennifer Conner

self

The Woodlands, TX

SUPPORT HB 4199

This bill would be a wonderful addition to our public schools. What a tangible way to show our students support all year long. It's a simple act, but one that can go a long way in giving menstruating students peace of mind and more confidence. And we all know high school students can use all the confidence we can give them.

SUPPORT HB 4199