

Katy Gromowsky and Sam Phillips
Proponent, HB2461

February 3, 2022

To the Honorable Chair Adam Smith, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in support of HB2461. Through our research, we have learned that because of the high cost of feminine hygiene products, women in underserved communities don't have equal access to these products. This impacts their health, financial situations, personal freedom, and life in general.

We think it's important to pass this bill for eliminating taxation on feminine hygiene products because it is an unnecessary added cost onto period products that stops many women from getting the proper care they need.

Female health is a pivotal part of a functional society. Eliminating the period tax would be a small way to support women across the entire socioeconomic spectrum. If Kansas is trying to put an end to grocery tax, aren't feminine hygiene products worthy of that same consideration?

Women average thirty tampons a month - three hundred and sixty a year. A box of eighteen tampons costs \$5.09 at Hy-Vee. That's \$10 a month for something that happens to almost every woman in Kansas. \$4,440 spent over the part of life that women are having their period. Is there even a comparable cost for health care for men? Ending the tax on tampons is about fairness and respect for women.

Other health-related items such as prescriptions or toilet paper don't have an added tax. Women are taxed for being women. It restricts many women living in poverty because their budget could already be stretched to its limit. Fifteen states have already gotten rid of the Tampon Tax so it is possible for Kansas to end it as well.

We urge the committee to pass this bill in support of women in Kansas.

Thank you for considering,
Katy & Sam