



PROJECT BEE

To: House Finance and Taxation
From: Elizabeth Larsen, Executive Director
Subject: House Bill 1282 - Sales Tax Exemption for Feminine Hygiene Products
Date: 01/17/2023

Project BEE supports House Bill 1282 to help create a more financially robust North Dakota.

Chairman Craig Headland and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1282. My name is Liz Larsen and I am the Executive Director of Project BEE in Minot, home of the Dakota Diaper Pantry (one of just two National Diaper Bank Members in our great state). Through that program, we also distribute menstrual hygiene products. We serve hundreds of families and individuals in Minot and Western North Dakota. Our vision is to eliminate homelessness by preventing it entirely - through supporting people where they are as they encounter struggles.

As people in our communities struggle to afford essential menstrual products, their economic vulnerability increases, and they miss school and work. It may sound dramatic, but missing school and work is a slippery slope into deeper poverty - and the budgets for supportive services cannot handle an influx of more clients, honestly. We also desperately need more folks to join our workforce in nearly every field, and cannot have that positive economic growth without supporting our menstruating population, especially those in poverty.

Respectfully, our state's policies are a direct reflection of our values. We should not tax menstruators for menstruating. Let's create another tool to attract and retain younger individuals and families in our great state. Essential hygiene need is bipartisan.

Please pass this bill and let everyone know that North Dakota values our menstruating citizens.

Very respectfully,



Liz Larsen

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