



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **House Passes Bill Requiring Public Schools to Provide Free Access to Tampons and Sanitary Pads for Students, Commits to Eliminating Period Poverty**

*After hundreds of students reached out to the Oregon Legislature about the Menstrual Dignity Act, the legislation was introduced and this week passed unanimously*

SALEM, OR—This week the Oregon House passed [House Bill 3294](#), the Menstrual Dignity Act, which would ensure students who menstruate have access to free tampons and sanitary pads while at school. Education providers, community colleges, and universities in Oregon would be required to provide students period products to students.

“This is for the hundreds who made this possible; who showed up and were civically engaged and brought this legislation to the table,” said [Rep. Ricki Ruiz](#) (D-Gresham), co-chief sponsor. “This is a public health issue that we’re addressing and that disproportionately impacts students from low-income families who don’t always have the resources to afford period products.”

[Studies indicate](#) one in five menstruators in the U.S. cannot afford the price of menstrual products every month. Among those menstruators are the students that attend Oregon's public educational institutions. In schools, one in four teens have missed class due to a lack of access to period products.

“As a social worker, I worked with so many kids who couldn’t afford menstrual hygiene products,” said [Rep. Anna Williams](#) (D-Hood River), co-chief sponsor. “Part of making sure our kids feel safe and supported is ensuring their needs are fully met. By passing the Menstrual Dignity Act we’re doing just that.”

In November 2020, Scotland became the first nation to offer free period products to its residents. New Zealand followed in February 2021, with a requirement that schools offer free period products.

The bill passed unanimously and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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