



March 03, 2025

The Honorable Ryan Weldon
House Subcommittee Education
1007 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: HF 543 – SUPPORT

Representative Weldon,

On behalf of the Alliance for Period Supplies, I am writing to express our strong support for HF 543, sponsored by Representative David Young, which would require school boards to ensure that feminine hygiene products can be accessed by students without cost in at least half of the restrooms in school buildings in the district where students in grades 6 through 12 are educated and that the supply of feminine hygiene products is refilled regularly.

The Alliance for Period Supplies is comprised of over 140 independent nonprofit organizations that collect, warehouse, and distribute period products to those in need. In Iowa, 2 of our allied programs are hard at work to end period poverty - a growing public health issue impacting 2 in 5 people that is characterized by an inability to afford enough menstrual products due to lack of income.

The provision of menstrual products in schools is vital to ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of all Iowans in daily life. Nearly [one in four students](#) missed class due to a lack of access to menstrual products, and [two in five reported](#) not being able to afford the menstrual products they needed. Research also shows that 86% of women and girls have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 34% have needed to leave what they were doing to retrieve period products. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources, which can be particularly burdensome on youth, low-income people, unhoused people, and other vulnerable populations.

By providing menstrual products in schools, Iowa can help to ensure its students have equal access to education and are empowered to reach their full potential. Research shows that students lacking access to period products experience higher rates of absence and are less able to focus and engage in the classroom. Significantly, after New York City passed a law providing free menstrual products to students, participating schools saw a 2.4% increase in attendance.

Passing HF 543 would mark a critical step toward removing barriers to equity for all Iowa students, especially those who have struggled to access menstrual products due to gender or income. 28 states

and Washington D.C., have already passed legislation to increase access to period products in schools. For all of these reasons, we urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. The Alliance for Period Supplies stands ready to support and collaborate with you in any way possible to ensure the successful passage and implementation of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Ariana Smith
Manager of Legislative Policy
Alliance for Period Supplies