

Senate Education

05/03/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1164 Free Menstrual Products to Students

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Dawn Fritz For Colorado Parent Teacher Association</p>	<p>Colorado PTA supports HB 1164. We know that schools are often best positioned to serve as a center for meeting the needs of the whole child. PTA supports a healthy school environment and the provision of health services in schools. We believe that health services should appropriately reflect the educational commitment to address identified health issues that limit students' abilities to learn. By allowing girls who might lack the financial resources the access to free sanitary products at school, this bill removes one barrier to their school attendance.</p> <p>Furthermore, academic achievement is interrelated with self-esteem and well-being. The discreet nature of making menstrual hygiene products available in school bathrooms prevents girls from the embarrassment of having to ask for them in offices of the school, where others might overhear or oversee the request. It should be noted that because of budget cutbacks, many schools either do not have a nurse or have one only for a few hours per week.</p> <p>PTA supported SB21-255, which created the grant program that will be expanded by this legislation. I would like to mention that the idea for that bill originated at Arvada West High School, after the PTA at the school provided funding for providing free menstrual products in the girls' bathrooms, at the students' request. Not all schools have a PTA that they can provide the funding. This bill would provide equity for all menstruating students.</p>