

Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in support to SB21-255 – Free Menstrual Hygiene Products To Students (Winter & Herod/ Titone) to the Senate Education Committee by Samantha Espinoza, Senior Policy Analyst for Health Equity at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

May 13, 2021

- Thank you Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Sam Espinoza. I am the Senior Policy Analyst for Health Equity at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 255 and am thankful to the bill sponsors for bringing this bill forward.
- We support this bill because it will remove economic barriers for students accessing necessary health products at school, helps address social stigma around menstrual hygiene and ensures period products are available to ALL students in middle, junior and high school regardless of gender identity.
- And, we think this is an important piece of legislation because we know it was developed in partnership with those closest to the issue, Colorado students.
- Not only is policy stronger when it is informed by the community it seeks to serve and driven forward by those experiencing the problem, its also good for kids.
- Research indicates that young people are surrounded by a variety of opportunities to engage in intentional, productive, and constructive ways, are less likely to engage in risky behavior, and show higher rates of successful transitions into adulthood.
- To explain, the several stakeholder meetings held throughout the bill development process – from inception to policy introduction, were largely attended and convened by young people.
- Lastly, in addition to our gratitude for the providing young people with a positive and meaningful civic engagement opportunity, we wanted to appreciate the sponsors for the thoughtful language to assist the Colorado Department of Education in disseminating grant funds equitably – namely prioritizing schools that have some of the greatest needs.
- SB 255 would provide more students access to feminine hygiene products, free of cost, begin to address social stigma and with that, we urge your support for this bill.
- Thank you

