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Grace Meng
Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
HT-2, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you begin to draft this year's State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriation legislation, I respectfully request you consider including the following item:

Report Language Request

Feminine hygiene product availability.—The Committee requests that the Secretary report on every foreign aid and assistance program that makes either toilet paper or soap available to individuals, but not feminine hygiene products. According to UNICEF, 1 in 10 school-age African girls do not attend school during menstruation, or drop out at puberty due to the lack of clean and private sanitation facilities in schools. According to Water Aid, 95% of girls in Ghana sometimes miss school due to menses, and 86% and 53% of girls in Garissa and Nairobi, respectively, in Kenya miss a day or more of school every two months. Menstrual care is health care, and should be treated as such. The well-being of girls and women across the globe may be substantially improved by simply making feminine hygiene products more readily available, and the Committee desires to know what further efforts the U.S. government may make in this area.

Thank you for your time spent reviewing this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Grace Meng
Member of Congress