

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison and Congresswoman DeLauro:

On behalf of national, state, and local organizations, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act of 2017.

Nearly half of infants and toddlers in the U.S. are living in low-income families. This means that over 5 million young children are living in families that have a hard time covering the cost of their family's basic needs, including diapers for their young children. According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in 2014 the poorest 20 percent of families spend 14 percent of their income on diapers. The National Diaper Bank Network estimates that overall, 1 in 3 families struggle with diaper need.

Lack of clean diapers is a public health issue that can affect the physical well-being of young children, as well as cause considerable stress for parents and guardians. According to a Yale School of Medicine study, diaper need is a stronger predictor of depression and anxiety among mothers than food insecurity.

Diaper need can also prohibit parents from accessing child care, since many child care providers require parents to provide clean diapers for their children. Parents and guardians who lack access to child care for their young children struggle to maintain employment and provide for their family.

The Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act would address diaper need in the U.S. by creating a demonstration program for distributing diapers to eligible families. States will have flexibility in developing and implementing their program. These demonstrations will reveal the best ways to help eligible families access diapers for their young children.

We are grateful for your leadership in making children and families a legislative priority. We look forward to working with you to move this important policy forward.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

9to5, National Association of Working Women
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of Teachers
American Nepali/Congolese Children's Foundation
Ardinger Consultants & Associates
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Building the Capacity of Organizations
BUILD Initiative
Children's Advocacy Institute
Democrats Abroad
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Every Child Matters
Family Promise
First Focus Campaign for Children
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches
HEAL-ONLINE.ORG
Healthy Teen Network
HEAR US Inc.

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association
LIFT
Mitzvah Circle Foundation
MomsRising.org
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Coalition for the Homeless
The National Diaper Bank Network
National Health Law Program
National Women's Law Center
Nurse-Family Partnership
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Parents as Teachers
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Salaam Legal Network & Citizens Council for Human Rights
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
SocioEnergetics Foundation
The Stuart Center of the Society of the Sacred Heart
ZERO TO THREE

STATE, TERRITORY, AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALABAMA

The Second Beginning

ARIZONA

Christian Faith Fellowship Ministry
Diaper Bank of Central Arizona

FSB Pregnancy Center
The House of Timothy
Kearns Educational Consulting
Labor's Community Service Agency
New Mercies Pregnancy Center
Northern Arizona Council of Governments
Singleton Moms
Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services

ARKANSAS

United Way of the Ouachitas

CALIFORNIA

Children Now
Clinica Sierra Vista
Community Action Partnership of Orange County Food Bank
Healthy Cities Tutoring
Help a Mother Out
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Orange County Food Access Coalition
So Cal Farmers' Markets
Western Center on Law and Poverty

COLORADO

Colorado Children's Campaign
The Consortium
The Nappie Project
Posada

CONNECTICUT

All Our Kin, Inc.
Bare Necessities Inc.
Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition
Connecticut Voices for Children
The Connecticut Women's Consortium
The Diaper Bank
Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services
Middlesex Coalition for Children
New Milford Social Services
YWCA Hartford Region

DELAWARE

Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Middletown Diaper Bank

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Diaper Bank

FLORIDA

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition
Here We Grow Foundation, Inc.
Immokalee Multicultural Multipurpose Community Action
Agency
Junior League of Panama City
Treasure Coast Food Bank
United Way of the Florida Keys
Woman to Woman Global Mentorship Network, Inc.

GEORGIA

B.E.S.T. HOMES, INC.
Voices for Georgia's Children

IDAHO

Idaho Diaper Bank, Inc.

ILLINOIS

Bottom Line Diaper Bank of East Central Illinois
Erikson Institute
EverThrive Illinois
Healthcare Consortium of Illinois
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Metropolitan Family Services
New Moms
Providing Access to Help (PATH)
Twice As Nice Mother & Child

INDIANA

All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center
Caring for Kids – Lawrence County
Family Voices Indiana
Hoosier Uplands Early Head Start

IOWA

Child and Family Policy Center
United Ways of Iowa

KANSAS

Kids Need To Eat, Inc.
Junior League of Wichita

KENTUCKY

ChooseWell Communities, Inc.

LOUISIANA

Jesuit Social Research Institute
United Way of Northwest Louisiana

MAINE

The Diaper Fund

MARYLAND

Advocates for Children and Youth
The Judy Center of Baltimore County
PeterCares House
Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS

Baby Basics, Inc.
Berkshire Community Diaper Project
Franklin County Diaper Bank
The Salasin Center
Valuing our Children

MICHIGAN

Baby Basics of Troy Ministry
The Diaper Alliance
Leelanau Children's Center
Metropolitan Detroit Diaper Bank
Michigan League for Public Policy
Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries
St. Frances Cabrini Clinic
St. Luke's Diaper Bank

MINNESOTA

Church of St. Andrew
Diaper Bank of Minnesota
Hunger Solutions
People Responding in Social Ministry (PRISM)
Sherburne County Area United Way

MISSISSIPPI

Children's Defense Fund – Southern Region
Coahoma County Diaper Bank
Mississippi Center for Justice

MISSOURI

Community Diaper Pantry
Daughters of Charity – Province of St. Louise
Empower Missouri
First Chance for Children
FosterAdopt Connect
HappyBottom
New Madrid County Human Resources Council
Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
Vision for Children at Risk

MONTANA

Montana Food Bank Network
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
United Way of Missoula County
Wolf's Enterprises Human Rights and Civil Liberties Advocacy

NEBRASKA

Blue Valley Community Action
Food Bank for the Heartland

New Hampshire

SHARE Fund, Inc.

NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
Make A Change Diaper Bank
Modestly Cover Diaper Bank of Essex County
Moms Helping Moms Foundation
SMILE for Charity
The Village Learning Center
Wafa House, Inc.

NEW MEXICO

Enlace Comunitario
The Food Depot
New Mexico Voices for Children

NEW YORK

AIDS Community Resources Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics – New York State
Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties
Central New York Citizens in Action, Inc.

Central New York Diaper Bank Inc.
Child Care Solutions, Inc.
The Children's Agenda
Church Women United in New York State
Community Food Advocates
Community Outreach at St. John's
Early Childhood Alliance Onondaga
Every Bottom Covered
Fox House
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
No Bottom Left Behind Diaper Bank
Precious Lamb Ministries
Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Spanish Action League
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
United Way of Fulton County
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County
Vera House, Inc.
YWCA of the Greater Capital Region

NEVADA

Baby's Bounty

NORTH CAROLINA

Bottles N Bottoms, Inc.
Calvary United Methodist Church
Diaper Bank of North Carolina
Diaper Bank of North Carolina – Greater Triad
NC Child

OHIO

Catholic Charities Serving Portage & Stark Counties
Cleveland Nonviolence Network
Columbus Diaper Bank
Columbus Diaper Coalition
Community Action Commission of Belmont County Help Me
Food Program & Clothesline of Jackson
Gem City Gives – National Diaper Bank of Greater Dayton
Grow and Head Start Programs
Healthy Fathering Collaborative
Making Kids Count
NUBIAN LINK, INC.
Paramount Advantage
Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
SEM Food Pantry
Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry

OKLAHOMA

High Flight Arts and Letters

OREGON

Cultivating Connection Inc.
Growing Solutions
Malheur County Health Department
The Next Door
PDX Diaper Bank

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr Peace Coalition
Center for Leadership, Development & Advocacy Diaper Bank
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley

Ezekiel House Mentoring/Homewood Community Sports
The Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank
Pamper and Diaper My Baby
PathWays PA
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
One Love Family Daycare & Learning Center
United Way of Chester County
Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank

RHODE ISLAND

Project Undercover

SOUTH CAROLINA

Power in Changing Community Diaper Bank

SOUTH DAKOTA

St. Vincent DePaul Society of Sioux Falls

Tennessee

Nashville Diaper Connection

TEXAS

ArkLaTex Blessing Center, Inc.
Center for Transforming Lives
Everman High School
Galveston Diaper Bank
Helpings: SNAP Outreach Program
Hope Supply Co.
Texas Diaper Bank

VIRGINIA

Children's Diaper Bank
Cornerstones
Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank
NOVA Diaper Bank of the Rotary Club of Asburn
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church
A Small Hand
Virginia Poverty Law Center
We Can Do It! Learning

WASHINGTON

Baby Basics Bellevue
Children's Discovery Museum
Diaper Bank of Skagit County
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Integrative Wellness
WA Appleseed
WestSide Baby
United Way of King County

WEST VIRGINIA

Family Resource Network of Greenbrier County

WISCONSIN

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Pregnancy Helpline, Inc.
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice