

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