



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 6, 2024

House Bill 490

**Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Donations to Diaper Banks and Other Charitable Entities – Sunset Repeal
House Ways and Means Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 490 seeks to repeal the termination of provisions relating to Maryland income tax subtractions for certain donations to diaper banks and other certain charitable entities; and generally relating to a subtraction under Maryland income tax for donations to diaper banks and other charitable entities.

Up to 30.5 percent of Maryland's infants reside in households with incomes below twice the federal poverty line, reflecting a diverse economic landscape for the state's youngest population.¹ Many of these children live in low-income households, and the financial strain is evident in the cost of diapers, averaging \$80 to \$100 per month per baby for the typical family.² Unfortunately, both diapers and feminine hygiene products are not covered by SNAP or WIC, leaving numerous families unable to afford these essential items on their own. To enhance safety and well-being and foster a more equitable economy, repealing the sunset provision that offers Maryland families an income tax subtraction becomes paramount.

Maryland's diaper banks and charities play a crucial role in distributing hundreds of thousands of diapers to families in need, contributing significantly to keeping infants safe and dry. Assisting families in securing essential goods for their children not only creates safer households but also promotes healthy development. The Conference, committed to supporting life-affirming initiatives, supports the continuation of tax credits to donors contributing diapers, feminine hygiene products, and monetary donations to diaper banks and other charities. This

¹[https://stateofbabies.org/pdfs/states/Maryland%20\(MD\)%20%20State%20of%20Babies%20Yearbook%202023.pdf](https://stateofbabies.org/pdfs/states/Maryland%20(MD)%20%20State%20of%20Babies%20Yearbook%202023.pdf)

² https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Fast_Facts_DiaperNeed_Dec_2022.pdf

incentive would address the pressing needs of Maryland families during critical times, ensuring that no parent should worry about having diapers for their baby or toddler. The bill, by encouraging donations, aims to safeguard the health and safety of children and foster a family-friendly environment.

For these reasons, the MCC asks for a favorable report on **HB 490**.

Thank you for your consideration.