

April 1, 2021

**Senate Bill 622
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Donations to Diaper Banks and
Other Charitable Entities**

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 622 would provide a tax credit up to \$1000 for donations made to diaper banks or other charitable organizations that distribute diapers and feminine hygiene products to families in need.

Of the 217,000 babies and toddlers in the state of Maryland, one-quarter live in low-income families. Diapers are expensive, costing the average family \$80 per month, and for single parent households, infant care costs approximately 40% of the household income. Additionally, diapers and feminine hygiene products are not covered by SNAP or WIC, leaving many families unable to afford these essential items out of pocket. Maryland's diaper banks and charities distribute hundreds of thousands of diapers to these families, helping babies stay safe and dry.

The Conference works to support efforts that are life-affirming. Offering a tax credit to donors providing diapers, feminine hygiene products and monetary donations to diaper banks and other charities would help fill the needs of Maryland families when they most need help. No mom or dad should ever have to worry about having a diaper for their baby or toddler. This bill would encourage donations that protect the health and safety of children and encourage a family-friendly environment.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report for **SB 622**. Thank you for your consideration.