



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 52 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver –
Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

Hearing Date: March 21, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) strongly supports *Senate Bill 52 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products*. The bill requires the state Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to allow benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to be used to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products, if the U.S. Department of Agriculture makes the waiver available.

Our network of federally-qualified health centers focuses on providing care to underserved communities. Neither diapers nor menstrual hygiene products are covered by SNAP or WIC. Since many of our patients have limited resources, they often face financial difficulties in purchasing these products, yet a sufficient supply of sanitary products is necessary to protect children and menstruating people from physical harm. Dirty diapers can harbor germs such as salmonella, listeria, norovirus, and E. coli, and unsanitary menstrual hygiene products can cause infections such as bacterial vaginosis and yeast infections.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.