



www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

51 Monroe Street, Ste. 1034 – Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-306-5718
www.marylandwomen.org

January 20, 2023

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair

*Maxine Griffin Somerville,
First Vice Chair*

*Roberta Pardo,
Second Vice Chair*

Andrea Bottner, Esq.

Tammy Bresnahan

Deborah L. Cartee

Essita R. Duncan, Esq.

Judith Emmel

Kathryn M. Fiddler, DNP

Kristi S. Halford

Eugenia Henry, Ph.D.

D. Kaprece James

Lauren M. Lambert

Patricia McHugh Lambert, Esq.

Christine S. Lee, Ph.D.

Beth Anne Langrell

Brenda McChriston

Maria B. Menucci, M.D.

Jenny Pena Dias, Ph.D.

Carole Jaar Sepe

Evelyne S. Steward

Lenita Walker

Monica Watkins

Rev. Tamara England Wilson

Yun Jung Yang, Esq.

*Judith Vaughan-Prather
Executive Director*

*Tammy Wise
Management Associate*

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
The Honorable Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Re: HB0087 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

Dear Del. Barnes, Del. Chang and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) urges your support of HB0087 which will allow recipients of Maryland's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children to use benefits to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products.

The MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women's accomplishments and contributions, and provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state. It is to fulfill this mandate that the Commission writes to you today.

Low-income women and girls of all ages struggle to afford menstrual hygiene products and diapers. Currently, neither the Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program nor the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children allow their benefits to be used for the purchase of feminine hygiene products or diapers. While Maryland already exempts menstrual feminine hygiene products and diapers from sales tax, adopting House Bill 0087 is the next step to ensuring these essential items are affordable to all Maryland's women and girls.

House Bill 0087 will require Maryland's Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to allow benefits to be used to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products.

We strongly urge your support of HB0087.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tawanda A. Bailey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women

(The positions expressed in this letter are those of the Commission for Women and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.)