



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



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TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Vaughn Stewart

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 87 – *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 87.

House Bill 87 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to apply for a waiver, if made available, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Special Supplemental Assistance Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) to use benefits from those programs to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products. If a waiver is approved, DHS is required to adopt regulations to implement the waiver.

SNAP and WIC are two critical federal social services programs, which provide essential food and nutritional assistance to low-income individuals. Diapers and menstrual hygiene products are essential to the health of women and children. However, low-income individuals are often unable to afford these products, thereby unnecessarily placing these women and children at risk. Passage of House Bill 87 would enable the State to lawfully provide Maryland's most disadvantaged individuals access to these products through the use of benefits that were originally created to address the very real challenges these individuals face in securing access to food and nutritional products as well as other critical health and hygiene products. A favorable report is requested.