



Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill Number: HB 87

Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

Hearing Date: January 24, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 87 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products*. The bill will require 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. Unlike food, diapers and menstrual hygiene products are not covered by WIC or SNAP.

Children require at least 50 diaper changes per week, or 200 diaper changes per month. Some families with limited resources cannot afford enough diapers, and this situation can put the health of their infants at risk. Dirty diapers can lead to transmission of hepatitis A, viral meningitis, and severe bacterial diarrheas, among many other illnesses that are a danger to the baby's health and the family's health.¹

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http://www.idahodiaperbank.org/why_diapers_/impacts_of_diaper_need/#:~:text=When%20there%20is%20not%20an,baby's%20health%20and%20the%20family's.

People who menstruate have similarly severe potential health consequences. Not having proper menstrual hygiene management increases a person's chances of contracting urinary tract infections, yeast infections, and toxic shock syndrome which can cause vomiting, seizures, and death.

Maryland should make it a priority to ensure families have the resources to keep their families healthy. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.