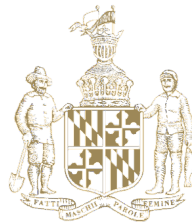


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Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety,  
Transportation, and Environment

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on  
Program Open Space/Agricultural  
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 27th, 2023

**Testimony in Favor of SB0052**  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products**

Chairwoman Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 52 which, as amended, would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (MDH) to apply for a waiver through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to authorize the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) funds to be used to purchase menstrual products and diapers if such a waiver becomes available.

Like many of you, throughout the pandemic I was able to serve my community through volunteering at different food drives and community-sponsored donation events to support those in our community that were struggling the most to get by. What continued to surprise me the most at these events was that it was diapers and menstrual products that were the most requested items and the first to go.

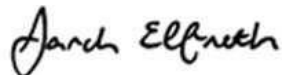
Diapers and menstrual products are necessities – and every Marylander should have the ability and right to purchase these items – especially though SNAP and WIC benefits if they so choose. I am proud of the work that this legislature has taken to expand access to diapers and menstrual products through the passage of legislation to exempt diapers from the sales tax and ensuring that menstrual products are available in public school restrooms – however, this legislation will take further action to ensure that Maryland families most in need are able to purchase such products if they so choose.

This legislation matches the exact legislation that Illinois passed this year, and while it is unclear as to when the USDA will take action to authorize this expansion, it will be through the passage of this legislation that we can ensure that Maryland is ready to take immediate action to apply for such a waiver.

Lastly, after introducing this bill we learned that the legislation needed an amendment to clarify the intent, as DHS would need to apply for the SNAP waiver and MDH would need to apply for the WIC waiver. That amendment is included in this testimony.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 52 to further support Maryland's women and children through the provision of these essential products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfresth". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sarah Elfresth