



www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

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www.marylandwomen.org

January 20, 2023

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The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Re: SB0052 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

Dear Sen. Griffith, Sen. Klausmeier and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) urges your support of SB0052 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 Senate Bill 0052 is the next step to ensuring these essential items are affordable to all Maryland's women and girls.

Senate Bill 0052 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 SB0052.

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 'Tawanda' being the most prominent part.

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.)