



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 2, 2023

SB0052

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual
Hygiene Products
Senate Finance Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 0052 requires the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to allow benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children to be used to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products, if the U.S. Department of Agriculture makes the waiver available.

SB 0052 will require the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to allow benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infant, and Children to be used to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products, if the United States Department of Agriculture makes the waiver available. This bill is vital to parents who cannot afford the rising cost of diapers or menstrual hygiene products. In the State of Maryland, one-quarter of babies and toddlers live in low-income families. Diapers are expensive, costing the average family over \$80 per month, and for single parent households, infant care costs approximately 40% of household income. Currently, diapers and feminine hygiene products are not covered by SNAP or WIC, leaving many families unable to afford these essential items out of pocket. We must help those in need any way we can, and this bill goes directly to accomplishing this goal.

The Catholic Conference works to support efforts that are life-affirming. If implemented, this bill will greatly help those families in need. No mom or dad should ever have to worry about having a diaper for their baby or toddler. This bill will help protect the health and safety of families.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report on **SB 0052**.
Thank you for your consideration.