



**REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE INSIDE**

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE INSIDE

2103 Gough Street * Baltimore, MD 21231

www.reproductivejusticeinside.org

info@reproductivejusticeinside.org

443.619.9278

February 1, 2023

Chair Griffith

Vice Chair Klausmeier

Members of the Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB 52 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Kimberly Haven, and I am the Executive Director of Reproductive Justice Inside. We are the only organization in the country that focuses our work to address the needs of systems-involved individuals seeking quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare. Our mission is to support and protect, as a fundamental right and value, reproductive freedom for the entire reproductive lifespan of incarcerated individuals and to address the conditions of confinement where systems-involved individuals are not in complete control of their reproductive futures and freedom.

We offer this testimony in support of SB 52 – While we recognize that there is currently no waiver under SNAP or WIC that allows for the purchase of diapers or menstrual hygiene products using program benefits, when such a waiver is granted, the ability for individuals to then be able to purchase these products will have a profound impact particularly in low-income communities.

The ability to purchase these necessary and vital items currently pose a strain to family budgets. We know that infants will go through diapers approximately 8,000 diaper changes before potty training. Infants need diapers – plain and simple.

Menstruating individuals can go through as many 16,000 products during their lifetime. They are very often having to choose between food for their families and a necessary hygiene item – this often translates to missed work and school because of the inability to buy these products.

While the bill itself does not change the amount of benefits that are available it will provide a means for individuals to meet the needs of their infants and their bodies. This bill then is critical to parents who cannot afford the costs.

For these reasons, Reproductive Justice Insides requests a favorable vote on SB 52.

Respectfully submitted.