

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

1/28/2023

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our support of **SB 52 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products** because Diapers and menstrual hygiene products are a necessity.

This legislation would ensure that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children recipients would be able to use to use their benefits to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products such as tampons, sanitary napkins, and feminine wipes. We understand that the bill is complex and the bill would allow Maryland to apply for a waiver from the U.S. Agriculture Department, which would allow people in Maryland to use SNAP and other benefits for those products. Providing the USDA approves the waiver and this bill passes, then the benefits can be used toward the products.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in three US families with young children struggled to afford enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy. According to the [National Diaper Bank Network](#), families can expect about 12 diaper changes each day for infants and 8 for toddlers, adding up to \$70 or \$80 per child each month. Without enough diapers each day, infants and toddlers are at risk of skin infections, open sores, urinary tract infections, and other conditions that may require medical attention. Additionally, almost all childcare providers require parents to provide a daily supply of disposable diapers to care for a child. Without diapers, parents cannot go to work or school and lose income and the opportunity to succeed.

In regards to menstrual hygiene products, pads and tampons are expensive. Per the National Organization of Women the average woman spends about \$20 on feminine hygiene products per cycle, adding up to about \$18,000 over her lifetime . However, the over-use of pads and or wreak havoc with the buildup of bacteria. Reusable feminine hygiene products are also an option but they come with the need to regularly sanitize them, and the privacy to change them- which can be a more involved process than swapping out a pad or tampon. Instead of hygiene products, many women are forced to create makeshift pads out of public restroom toilet paper or other wadded up paper products, exposing them to bacteria that can lead to yeast infections and urinary tract infections. The overuse of tampons can lead to toxic shock syndrome which can be fatal.



For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **SB 52 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products**

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay J. Ward , the Chesapeake Chapter President at 410-507-3642 or lindsayjward@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay J. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay J. Ward CRNP, RN, IBCLC, MSN, BSN
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner- Pediatric Primary Care
International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter President

Evgenia Ogordova

Evgenia Ogordova-DNP
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Chair