



# Indivisible: Central Maryland

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## TESTIMONY FOR SB0052

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products

**Bill Sponsors:** Senators Elfreth

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Central Maryland

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate

**Position:** FAVORABLE

My name is Liz Enagonio, representing both myself and Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. **Indivisible Central Maryland strongly supports SB0052**, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs – Waiver – Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products.

According to The National Diaper Bank, one in three children experience lack of access to adequate diapers. The burden is felt most deeply by low-income families, who often require assistance from charity diaper banks. If a diaper bank is not accessible, the caregivers may be forced to change the child's diaper less often. This can have an array of negative consequences, including diaper rash, and urinary tract or genital infections.

According to the United States National Fact Sheet on Period Poverty, published by the Alliance for Period Supplies, almost 151,000 women and girls between ages 12-44 in Maryland live below the Federal Poverty Line, and struggle to keep up with bills and meet their basic expenses. Although programs such as SNAP are lifelines for helping meet food needs, women often struggle to meet other basic needs, including menstrual supplies. On a national level, one in four girls has missed class due to lack of access to period supplies.

The fact that the USDA is considering a waiver to allow benefits under SNAP or the Special SNAP programs to be used to purchase diapers and menstrual products points to the seriousness of the problem of period and diaper poverty. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports SB0052**, which would require the Maryland Department of Human Services to apply for the waiver if it is implemented by USDA. Thank you.

Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate, on behalf of Indivisible Central Maryland