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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 198 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS, MULLINS, PASHINSKI, MADDEN,  
HOWARD, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, MADSEN, KHAN, CERRATO, DELLOSO,  
DONAHUE, PARKER, HADDOCK, MAYES AND SANCHEZ,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 18 through 24, 2023, as  
2 "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Diaper Need Awareness Week" brings attention to the  
4 insufficient supply of disposable diapers for children and  
5 incontinent adults of this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network, a national  
7 nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every baby in  
8 the United States can be clean, healthy and dry, reports that  
9 more than 15 million children in the United States three years  
10 of age or younger suffer from diaper need; and

11 WHEREAS, Access to a reliable supply of clean diapers is a  
12 necessity for the health and well-being of infants and toddlers,  
13 their families, child-care providers and health care providers;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Estimates show that disposable diapers cost as much  
16 as \$100 per child per month and can consume nearly 20% of a  
17 family's monthly income; and

1       WHEREAS, Most infants or toddlers require an average of at  
2 least 50 diaper changes per week over three years; and

3       WHEREAS, One in every two families finds it difficult to  
4 provide diapers for their children; and

5       WHEREAS, A supply of diapers is usually a requirement for  
6 infants and toddlers to attend and participate in child-care  
7 programs; and

8       WHEREAS, According to the National Diaper Bank Network,  
9 infants and toddlers who participate in early education programs  
10 are three times more likely to go on to higher education; and

11       WHEREAS, When infants and toddlers cannot participate in  
12 child-care programs, it makes it difficult for parents and  
13 guardians to participate in the workforce, which has a negative  
14 impact on the economy; and

15       WHEREAS, Infants and toddlers who are living in households  
16 with little or no access to diapers could spend a day or longer  
17 in one diaper, leading to significant potential health risks  
18 such as severe diaper rash and infections; and

19       WHEREAS, Most public resources, such as food stamps and the  
20 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, do not cover the cost  
21 of these necessary items; and

22       WHEREAS, Families living in poverty often do not have access  
23 to personal washing machines, and most coin-operated  
24 laundromats, for sanitary reasons, do not allow customers to  
25 wash cloth diapers; and

26       WHEREAS, Diaper need is also a significant issue for senior  
27 citizens and incontinent adults; and

28       WHEREAS, For seniors and incontinent adults, the lack of  
29 clean disposable undergarments poses a serious health risk that  
30 could lead to extended hospital stays and even death; and

1       WHEREAS, Incontinence products can cost as much as \$1,000 a  
2 year, which often serves as a financial burden to seniors and  
3 incontinent adults on fixed incomes; and

4       WHEREAS, The health risks and complications that may  
5 accompany incontinence is often a barrier to seniors staying in  
6 their homes and living independently; and

7       WHEREAS, Community organizations across this Commonwealth are  
8 doing their part to help with this epidemic by hosting diaper  
9 donation drives, which are critical in providing these essential  
10 materials to working families and incontinent adults in need,  
11 and raising awareness about the real implications of a widening  
12 diaper supply gap; and

13       WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network is committed to  
14 working with community groups and raising awareness of the  
15 diaper gap in America by building the capacity of community-  
16 based diaper banks to serve families throughout this  
17 Commonwealth; and

18       WHEREAS, There are more than 225 diaper banks recognized by  
19 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing more than 150  
20 million diapers annually; and

21       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 10 diaper banks that are  
22 recognized and are active members of the National Diaper Bank  
23 Network, distributing almost 10 million diapers per year to  
24 communities across this Commonwealth; and

25       WHEREAS, These diaper banks require community support and  
26 donations of diapers and money to allow them to continue to  
27 serve our communities; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
29 week of September 18 through 24, 2023, as "Diaper Need Awareness  
30 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
2 efforts of Pennsylvania's 10 diaper banks, the National Diaper  
3 Bank Network and all community organizations working to address  
4 the diaper gap in Pennsylvania; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
6 residents of this Commonwealth to support community  
7 organizations and participate in diaper drives to help improve,  
8 enhance and expand access to diapers for our Commonwealth's  
9 children and incontinent adults.