

**House Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401**

February 2, 2022

In Support of HB 282: Sales and Use Tax- Diapers- Exemption

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Rachel Myers, and I am the branch manager of Discoveries: the Library at the Mall, a branch of Anne Arundel County Public Library here in Annapolis.

Last July, our branch opened a community pantry to support our customers in meeting their basic needs. Our Community Pantry distributes diapers, wipes, menstrual products, and other hygiene supplies every Saturday morning. Since July, we have served over 1,500 people, including distributing almost 1000 packs of diapers. 1 in 3 families, including Maryland families, struggled to buy diapers even before the pandemic, a statistic that is played out every week at our community pantry, and is evident in the fact that each week, we try to meet the needs of more and more families through our programs.

HB 282 seeks to make diapers tax free in Maryland. Diapers are an expensive necessity of parenting. Making diapers tax free puts money directly in the pockets of Maryland parents and allows them to refocus on other necessities, including helping their children prepare for school. This legislation would allow some of our pantry families to afford diapers- whether being able to now buy them in the first place or help them to afford larger quantities because they can devote the money that would have previously been charged in tax to a bigger pack. While buying a bigger pack of diapers for their child may seem like a small thing, it can help to alleviate the constant worry and stress many parents face every day. Taking away the pressure placed on parents ultimately benefits their children and our communities at large.

While I understand there is fiscal implications to this important piece of legislation, I believe that it pales in comparison to the importance of helping Maryland families meet their basic needs so they can provide a more stable environment for their children.

As someone who interacts daily with people in need, I stand in favor of HB 282. Our community pantry families are struggling, and you can help them better meet their basic needs, just as we do at the library, by passing this bill.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to give this bill a favorable report.

Rachel Myers

Branch Manager, AACPL

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