



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones  
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB282  
Sales and Use Tax - Diapers - Exemption  
February 2, 2022, pm**

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and fellow members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For the record - I am Delegate Dana Jones.

Last year, I came before you to testify on an issue that is very near and dear to my heart. “Diaper Need,” [ the lacking of sufficient diapers to keep infants dry, comfortable, and healthy ], is an issue experienced by 1 in 3 families here in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Through this pandemic I personally saw the severity of this need first-hand through my experiences working weekly with supply distribution lines throughout my district. Diapers and other hygiene products were always the first to run out, with food banks and diaper pantries struggling to have the supply to keep up with demand.

Last year I introduced HB711, a bill to incentivize donations of diapers & other essential hygiene products, which passed unanimously through both chambers last session. I am thrilled that this new law is providing some relief to diaper banks & supply distribution lines that continue to see an overwhelming need

HB282 would eliminate state sales tax for diapers. Families with one young child spend over \$1,200 a year on diapers, with that number expected to increase due to recent inflation & supply chain issues. There is no national or statewide welfare program that can be used to purchase diapers or other essential hygiene products. Removing the sales tax on these essential items would save Maryland families over \$12 million annually.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [“What is Diaper Need?”. The National Diaper Bank Network](#)

<sup>2</sup> [“Maryland Diaper Bank Facts”. The Maryland Diaper Bank](#)

With our state and nation continuing to grapple with the aftershocks of the pandemic, rising inflation and labor shortages - the question is how can we help relieve the pressure that Maryland families are feeling? Most Child care facilities require parents to provide diapers for their child. Nationally 57% of parents experiencing diaper need who rely on child care said they missed an average of four days of school or work in the past month because they didn't have diapers.<sup>3</sup>

A study conducted by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis found that the incidence of diaper rash decreased by one-third after families began receiving clean diapers from the Diaper Bank of Connecticut.<sup>4</sup> Given the extensive need for and the importance of these items, it is absolutely essential that we take action to help relieve the cost for families and diaper banks.

Our state's policies are a reflection of our values. I believe it is time for our state to take this step to support all Maryland families. I want to thank all the advocates who my office has been working with again this year on this critical legislation.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bipartisan bill to help Maryland's children get access to the supplies they need.



Delegate Dana Jones

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<sup>3</sup> [“Maryland Diaper Bank Facts”. The Maryland Diaper Bank \(pg 3\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families: The social and economic impacts of the diaper bank of connecticut. Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis](#)