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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 443 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY LEACH, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 26 through October 2, 2016, as  
2 "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Diaper Need Awareness Week" will bring attention to  
4 the insufficient supply of disposable diapers for children and  
5 incontinent adults of this Commonwealth to remain clean, healthy  
6 and dry; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network, a national  
8 nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every baby in  
9 the United States can be clean, healthy and dry, reports that  
10 nearly 5.3 million children in the United States three years of  
11 age or younger suffer from diaper need; and

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

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

WHEREAS, One in every three mothers finds it difficult to provide diapers for her children; and

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

WHEREAS, According to a study by the UC Berkeley Labor Center, infants and toddlers who participate in early education programs are 2.5% more likely to go on to higher education; and

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

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

WHEREAS, According to a 2013 study by Yale University printed in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, mothers without an adequate diaper supply are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, which can in turn have long-term effects on their children; and

WHEREAS, Most public resources, such as food stamps and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, do not cover the cost of these needed items; and

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

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

WHEREAS, For seniors and incontinent adults, the lack of

1 clean disposable undergarments poses a serious health risk that  
2 could lead to extended hospital stays and even death; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, There are more than 275 diaper banks recognized by  
18 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing nearly 35 million  
19 diapers annually; and

20 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 11 diaper banks that are  
21 recognized and active members of the National Diaper Bank  
22 Network, distributing more than 1.3 million diapers per year to  
23 communities across this Commonwealth; and

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

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 26  
28 through October 2, 2016, as "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in  
29 Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the efforts of the

1 National Diaper Bank Network and all community organizations  
2 working to address the diaper gap in Pennsylvania; and be it  
3 further

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