

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

1 family's monthly income; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Incontinence products could cost as much as \$1,000 a
5 year, which often serves as a financial burden to seniors and
6 incontinent adults on fixed incomes; 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 and
11 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 275 diaper banks recognized by
19 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing nearly 35 million
20 diapers annually; and

21 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 11 diaper banks that are
22 recognized and active members of the National Diaper Bank
23 Network, distributing more than 1.3 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 dollars 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 26 through October 2, 2016, as "Diaper Need
30 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 efforts of the National Diaper Bank Network and all community
3 organizations working to address the diaper gap in Pennsylvania;
4 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.