
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 506 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, SIMS, BURNS,
NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, HANNA, CALTAGIRONE,
LONGIETTI, DEAN, ROZZI, J. HARRIS, KINSEY, BIZZARRO,
HENNESSEY, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, DIGIROLAMO, VAZQUEZ, MURT,
DUSH, SONNEY, SCHWEYER AND O'BRIEN, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 25 through October 1, 2017, 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 nearly 5.2 million children in the United States three years of
10 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

1 family's monthly income; and

2 WHEREAS, The average infant or toddler requires an average of
3 at least 50 diaper changes per week over three years; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Incontinence, and the health risks and complications
10 that can accompany it, is often a barrier to seniors staying in
11 their homes and remaining in independent living situations; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network is committed to
19 working with community groups and raising awareness of the
20 diaper gap in America by building the capacity of community-
21 based diaper banks to serve families throughout this
22 Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, There are more than 320 diaper banks recognized by
24 the National Diaper Bank Network, working with more than 4,000
25 community partners, in 46 states, the District of Columbia and
26 Guam, distributing nearly 50 million diapers annually; and

27 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 15 diaper banks that are
28 recognized and are active members of the National Diaper Bank
29 Network, distributing more than 3.4 million diapers per year to
30 communities across this Commonwealth; and

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

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
5 week of September 25 through October 1, 2017, as "Diaper Need
6 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 efforts of the National Diaper Bank Network and all community
9 organizations working to address the diaper gap in Pennsylvania;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
12 residents of this Commonwealth to support community
13 organizations and participate in diaper drives to help improve,
14 enhance and expand access to diapers for our Commonwealth's
15 children and incontinent adults.