
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 985 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, BURNS, FREEMAN, BOBACK,
SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, McNEILL, LONGIETTI, GREEN, DRISCOLL,
MADDEN, GALLOWAY, HOWARD, INNAMORATO, NEILSON, SANCHEZ, KORTZ
AND GAINNEY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 21 through 27, 2020, 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 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, Most infants or toddlers require an average of at
3 least 50 diaper changes per week over three years; and

4 WHEREAS, One in every three families find it difficult to
5 provide diapers for their 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 workforce, 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, Most public resources, such as food stamps and the
21 Women, Infants and Children Program, do not cover the cost of
22 these necessary items; and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, For seniors and incontinent adults, the lack of
30 clean disposable undergarments poses a serious health risk that

1 could lead to extended hospital stays and even death; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Incontinence and the health risks and complications
6 that may accompany it is often a barrier to seniors staying in
7 their homes and living independently; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, There are more than 200 diaper banks recognized by
20 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing more than 64
21 million diapers annually; and

22 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 11 diaper banks that are
23 recognized and are active members of the National Diaper Bank
24 Network, distributing almost 3 million diapers per year to
25 communities across this Commonwealth; and

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 week of September 21 through 27, 2020, as "Diaper Need Awareness

1 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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