

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 52

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Resolution No. 52.

Diapers are critical to the health of infants and toddlers and the economic and emotional health of families. One in three mothers report that at times they do not have enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy. Without enough diapers each day, infants and toddlers are at risk of skin infections, open sores, urinary tract infections, and other conditions that may require medical attention.

Purchasing diapers also creates an additional economic barrier for working families as most child care providers require parents to provide diapers. Diapers alone can consume six percent of the salary of a full-time working parent earning a minimum wage. Even if the family receives a child care subsidy, parents may not be able to afford enough diapers to enroll their child, forcing them out of the job market.

Many families struggle to meet their diaper needs. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) benefits cannot be used for diapers. This resolution calls upon the federal government to permit the use of SNAP and WIC benefits to pay for diaper purchases in order to reduce diaper need and help promote better health outcomes for children and economic outcomes for their families.