

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress and President to enact legislation creating program to subsidize purchase of diapers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR123 MOSQUERA

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Congress and the President of
2 the United States to enact legislation creating a program to
3 subsidize the purchase of diapers.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The ability to access clean diapers is a medical and
6 economic necessity for the health and welfare of infants and
7 toddlers and their families; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The majority of children in the United States use
9 disposable diapers until the age of three; and
10 **WHEREAS**, A child in the United States uses approximately 3,800
11 disposable diapers per year for the first three years of the child’s
12 life; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Diapers on average cost a family \$80 a month in New
14 Jersey, equaling an annual cost of \$960 and a cumulative total cost
15 for three years of \$2,880; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Statistics collected by the federal Bureau of Labor
17 Statistics indicate that the vast majority of parents work outside the
18 home and these individuals need child care. For example, over 70
19 percent of single women and over 80 percent of single men, who
20 are head of households with children under the age of 18, are
21 employed and over 58 percent of mothers with infants under a year
22 old participate in the workforce; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The majority of day care providers require that children
24 use disposable diapers; and
25 **WHEREAS**, For those individuals who are moderate to low income, the
26 purchase of diapers can be a significant portion of their monthly
27 income; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Over 35 percent of families who receive Temporary
29 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) have a child under the age
30 of three years old; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The maximum TANF cash benefit for a family consisting
32 of one parent and two children is \$424 a month in New Jersey; and
33 **WHEREAS**, For families who rely on TANF, one child’s need for
34 diapers will take up 18 percent of the monthly TANF cash benefit;
35 and
36 **WHEREAS**, TANF is the only public assistance benefit that can be used
37 to purchase diapers; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance benefits and
38 Women, Infant and Children benefits cannot be used to purchase
39 diapers; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The President of the United States announced an initiative
41 in March of 2016 which encourages companies to develop low-cost
42 disposable diapers and to assist in the distribution of disposable
43 diapers through diaper banks; and
44 **WHEREAS**, H.R.4055, the “Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants
45 and Toddlers Act of 2015” was introduced in November 2015 to
46 address the needs of infants and toddler who lack sufficient diapers;
47 now, therefore,

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey:*

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4 1. Congress and the President of the United States are
5 respectfully urged to enact legislation creating a program to
6 subsidize the cost of disposable diapers for families.

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2. The President of the United States is respectfully requested to continue efforts to support the development of low cost disposable diapers and the development of a network of organizations to provide access to disposable diapers to support working parents.

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3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and to every member of Congress elected from this State.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 This resolution respectfully urges Congress and the President of
25 the United States to enact legislation creating a program to
26 subsidize the cost of disposable diapers for families. Additionally,
27 the President of the United States is respectfully requested to
28 continue efforts to support the development of low cost disposable
29 diapers and the development of a network of organizations to
30 provide access to disposable diapers to support working parents.

On average, disposable diapers cost a family \$980 per year for the first three years of a child's life. For a low-income family, this cost can be prohibitive and impact the parent's ability to work, as the majority of child care centers require that children have disposable diapers, and if the diapers are not provided by the family, the child cannot attend day care. For a family reliant on public assistance, this cost comprises approximately 18 percent of the family's monthly public assistance benefit in New Jersey since diapers are not an eligible purchase with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits or Women, Infant and Children benefits. By enacting legislation and encouraging innovative programs to provide disposable diapers to working families, the Legislature can assist working parents to continue to work and support their families.