

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 179

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 20, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen McKnight, Murphy, Swain, Timberlake and  
Assemblyman Chiaravalloti**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requests federal legislation relating to COVID-19 financial relief include money for states to fund emergency grants for diaper banks.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** requesting federal legislation relating  
2 to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) financial relief  
3 include money for states to fund emergency grants for diaper  
4 banks.  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Diaper need is defined as the lack of a sufficient supply of  
7 diapers to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, Diaper need has been a concern for many decades; under  
9 normal circumstances, one in three families experience diaper need  
10 and; and  
11 **WHEREAS**, Since the beginning of the coronavirus disease 2019  
12 (COVID-19) pandemic, people have been stocking their pantries  
13 with household supplies like toilet paper, paper towels, disinfection  
14 wipes, hand sanitizer and diapers; and  
15 **WHEREAS**, Panic buying of these items has emptied store shelves,  
16 disrupted national supply chains, and exacerbated the diaper needs  
17 in the United States; and  
18 **WHEREAS**, Low-income families and parents who have lost their jobs  
19 during the COVID-19 pandemic are struggling to afford diapers for  
20 their children; and  
21 **WHEREAS**, Diminished supplies and concerns about leaving home  
22 have also lead to senior citizens with incontinence and adults with  
23 disabilities experiencing greater diaper need; and  
24 **WHEREAS**, The National Diaper Bank Network, a nonprofit  
25 organization with a nationwide network of over 200 diaper banks,  
26 has seen demand for diapers increase by as much as 400 percent in  
27 some areas of the country; and  
28 **WHEREAS**, Diaper banks are attempting to fill the gap between the  
29 lack of supply and increase demand by distributing diapers to those  
30 who are in need; and  
31 **WHEREAS**, Because of safety guidelines, diaper banks can no longer  
32 accept certain types of donations, such as open packages, and social  
33 distancing restrictions have led to cuts in volunteer opportunities  
34 and diaper drives; and  
35 **WHEREAS**, With widespread unemployment, a disrupted diaper supply  
36 chain, and COVID-19 restrictions, diaper banks are struggling to  
37 meet the increased demand for diapers; and  
38 **WHEREAS**, In March 2020, the United State Congress agreed on the  
39 passage of a \$2 trillion stimulus bill called the CARES  
40 (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act; and  
41 **WHEREAS**, The aim of the law was to blunt the impact of an economic  
42 downturn set in motion by the global COVID-19 pandemic; and  
43 **WHEREAS**, Policymakers crafted legislation that dedicates historic  
44 government funding to support large and small businesses,  
45 industries, individuals and families, gig workers and independent  
46 contractors, and hospitals; and  
47 **WHEREAS**, However, the legislation did not address the current diaper  
48 shortage; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Any further legislation relating to COVID-19 financial  
2 relief enacted by the federal government should include money for  
3 states to fund emergency grants for diaper banks to provide  
4 families, in New Jersey and across the nation, with a steady supply  
5 of diapers for their children; now, therefore,  
6

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
8 Jersey:  
9

10 1. This House requests any legislation enacted by the federal  
11 government relating to COVID-19 financial relief include money  
12 for states to fund emergency grants for diaper banks to provide  
13 families, in New Jersey and across the nation, with a steady supply  
14 of diapers for their children.  
15

16 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
17 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly, to every  
18 member of the New Jersey Congressional delegation and the Chief  
19 Executive Officer of the National Diaper Bank Network.  
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#### STATEMENT

23

24 This resolution requests that any legislation passed by the federal  
25 government relating to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
26 financial relief include money for states to fund emergency grants  
27 for diaper banks to provide families, in New Jersey and across the  
28 nation, with a steady supply of diapers for their children.

29 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people have  
30 been stocking their pantries with household supplies like toilet  
31 paper, paper towels, disinfection wipes, hand sanitizer, and diapers.  
32 Panic buying of these items has emptied store shelves, disrupted  
33 national supply chains, and exacerbated the diaper needs in the  
34 United States.

35 As a result, diaper banks, which distribute diapers to families in  
36 need, are struggling to meet the needs of these families.

37 Enacting federal COVID-19 relief legislation that would include  
38 funds emergency grants for diaper banks will allow these  
39 organizations to supply diapers to low-income families and parents  
40 who have lost their jobs during the pandemic.