

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Calls upon federal government to permit use of SNAP and WIC benefits to pay for diaper purchases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** calling upon the federal government to
 2 permit the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 3 and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for
 4 Women, Infant, and Children benefits to pay for diaper
 5 purchases.

6
 7 **WHEREAS**, Diapers are critical to the health of infants and toddlers and
 8 the economic and emotional health of families; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Without enough diapers each day, infants and toddlers are
 10 at risk of skin infections, open sores, urinary tract infections, and
 11 other conditions that may require medical attention; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Many families struggle to meet their diaper needs. Infants
 13 go through 10 to 12 diapers each day, and toddlers go through six to
 14 eight diapers each day, costing families an average of \$70 to \$80 a
 15 month; and

16 **WHEREAS**, One in three mothers report that at times they do not have
 17 enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy; and

18 **WHEREAS**, This forces many parents to take unsafe measures, with 48
 19 percent of food bank clients who used diapers responding that they
 20 delayed changing a diaper to make their supply last longer, and 32
 21 percent tried reusing a disposable diaper; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Purchasing diapers also creates an additional economic
 23 barrier for working families as most child care providers require
 24 parents to provide diapers; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Diapers alone can consume six percent of the salary of a
 26 full-time working parent earning a minimum wage. Even if the
 27 family receives a child care subsidy, parents may not be able to
 28 afford enough diapers to enroll their child, forcing them out of the
 29 job market; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Meanwhile, there is very little support for families
 31 struggling with diaper need. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
 32 Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
 33 Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) benefits cannot be
 34 used for diapers, and if a family receives cash assistance through
 35 the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which can
 36 be used for the purchase of diapers, the monthly diaper bill can
 37 consume up to 40 percent of that assistance in some states; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Permitting the use of SNAP and WIC benefits to pay for
 39 diaper purchases will reduce diaper need and help to promote better
 40 health outcomes for children and better economic outcomes for
 41 their families; now, therefore,

42

43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

44

45 1. This House respectfully calls upon the federal government to
 46 permit the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and
 47 Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women,
 48 Infant, and Children benefits to pay for diaper purchases in order to

1 reduce diaper need and help to promote better health outcomes for
2 children and better economic outcomes for their families.

3

4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
6 of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department
7 of Health and Human Services, and every member of the New
8 Jersey Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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

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

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