

February XX, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison and Congresswoman DeLauro:

On behalf of national, state, and local organizations, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act of 2017.

Nearly half of infants and toddlers in the U.S. are living in low-income families. This means that over 5 million young children are living in families that have a hard time covering the cost of their family's basic needs, including diapers for their young children. According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in 2014 the poorest 20 percent of families spend 14 percent of their income on diapers. The National Diaper Bank Network estimates that overall, 1 in 3 families struggle with diaper need.

Lack of clean diapers is a public health issue that can affect the physical well-being of young children, as well as cause considerable stress for parents and guardians. According to a Yale School of Medicine study, diaper need is a stronger predictor of depression and anxiety among mothers than food insecurity.

Diaper need can also prohibit parents from accessing child care, since many child care providers require parents to provide clean diapers for their children. Parents and guardians who lack access to child care for their young children struggle to maintain employment and provide for their family.

The Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act would address diaper need in the U.S. by creating a demonstration program for distributing diapers to eligible families. States will have flexibility in developing and implementing their program. These demonstrations will reveal the best ways to help eligible families access diapers for their young children.

We are grateful for your leadership in making children and families a legislative priority. We look forward to working with you to move this important policy forward.

Sincerely,