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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 534 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS, PASHINSKI, MULLINS, HOWARD,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, MERSKI, HANBIDGE, DONAHUE,  
CERRATO, MAYES, GALLAGHER, MADDEN, BOROWSKI, DALEY AND GREEN,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 23 through 29, 2024, as  
2 "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Diaper Need Awareness Week" brings attention to the  
4 insufficient supply of disposable diapers for children and  
5 incontinent adults of this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network, a national  
7 nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every baby in  
8 the United States can be clean, healthy and dry, reports that  
9 one in two families suffers from diaper need; and

10 WHEREAS, Access to a reliable supply of clean diapers is a  
11 necessity for the health and well-being of infants and toddlers,  
12 incontinent adults, their families, child-care providers and  
13 health care providers; and

14 WHEREAS, Children and incontinent adults who are living in  
15 households with little or no access to diapers could develop  
16 significant potential health risks such as severe diaper rash  
17 and bacterial and yeast infections; and

1       WHEREAS, Most public resources, such as food stamps, the  
2 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and Medicare, do not  
3 cover the cost of these necessary items; and

4       WHEREAS, Estimates show that disposable diapers cost as much  
5 as \$100 per child per month and incontinence products can cost  
6 as much as \$1,000 per year; and

7       WHEREAS, Approximately 46% of families suffering from diaper  
8 needs have reported cutting down on other expenditures,  
9 including food and utilities, to afford diapers; and

10       WHEREAS, Infants or toddlers can require up to 84 diaper  
11 changes per week over three years; and

12       WHEREAS, A supply of diapers is usually a requirement for  
13 infants and toddlers to attend and participate in child-care  
14 programs, which studies linked to higher education levels; and

15       WHEREAS, Three in five parents miss work or school because  
16 they cannot afford diapers required for their infants and  
17 toddlers to participate in child-care programs, which has a  
18 negative impact on the economy; and

19       WHEREAS, Families living in poverty often do not have access  
20 to personal washing machines, and most coin-operated laundromats  
21 do not allow customers to wash cloth diapers for sanitary  
22 reasons; and

23       WHEREAS, Community organizations across this Commonwealth are  
24 doing their part to help with this epidemic by hosting diaper  
25 donation drives, which are critical in providing these essential  
26 materials to working families and incontinent adults in need,  
27 and raising awareness about the real implications of a widening  
28 diaper supply gap; and

29       WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network is committed to  
30 working with community groups and raising awareness of the

1 diaper gap in America by building the capacity of community-  
2 based diaper banks to serve families throughout this  
3 Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, There are more than 240 diaper banks recognized by  
5 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing more than 150  
6 million diapers annually; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 10 diaper banks that are  
8 recognized and are active members of the National Diaper Bank  
9 Network, distributing almost 11 million diapers per year to  
10 communities across this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, These diaper banks require community support and  
12 donations of diapers and money to allow them to continue to  
13 serve our communities; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
15 week of September 23 through 29, 2024, as "Diaper Need Awareness  
16 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
18 efforts of Pennsylvania's 10 diaper banks, the National Diaper  
19 Bank Network and all community organizations working to address  
20 the diaper gap in Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
22 residents of this Commonwealth to support community  
23 organizations and participate in diaper drives to help improve,  
24 enhance and expand access to diapers for our Commonwealth's  
25 children and incontinent adults.