
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 984 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, BULLOCK, TOOIL, DONATUCCI, WATSON,
KINSEY, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, ROZZI, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO, COOK-
ARTIS, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, VEREB, PASHINSKI,
BIZZARRO, O'BRIEN, BURNS, MILLARD, PAYNE, MAJOR, M. DALEY,
J. HARRIS, GIBBONS, DEASY, GOODMAN, EVERETT, MURT, P. DALEY
AND MAHONEY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 26 through October 2, 2016, as
2 "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Diaper Need Awareness Week" will bring attention to
4 the insufficient supply of disposable diapers for children and
5 incontinent adults of this Commonwealth to remain clean, healthy
6 and dry; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network, a national
8 nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every baby in
9 the United States can be clean, healthy and dry, reports that
10 nearly 5.3 million children in the United States three years of
11 age or younger suffer from diaper need; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Estimates show that disposable diapers cost as much
2 as \$100 per child per month and can consume nearly 20% of a
3 family's monthly income; and

4 WHEREAS, One in every three mothers finds it difficult to
5 provide diapers for her children; and

6 WHEREAS, A supply of diapers is usually a requirement for
7 infants and toddlers to attend and participate in child-care
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, According to a study by the UC Berkeley Labor
10 Center, infants and toddlers who participate in early education
11 programs are 2.5% more likely to go on to higher education; and

12 WHEREAS, When infants and toddlers cannot participate in
13 child-care programs, it makes it difficult for parents and
14 guardians to participate in the work force, which has a negative
15 impact on the economy; and

16 WHEREAS, Infants and toddlers who are living in households
17 with little or no access to diapers could spend a day or longer
18 in one diaper, leading to significant potential health risks
19 such as severe diaper rash and infections; and

20 WHEREAS, According to a 2013 study by Yale University printed
21 in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, mothers without an adequate diaper
22 supply are more likely to experience depression and anxiety,
23 which can in turn have long-term effects on their children; and

24 WHEREAS, Most public resources, such as food stamps and the
25 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, do not cover the cost
26 of these needed items; and

27 WHEREAS, Those families living in poverty often do not have
28 access to personal washing machines, and most coin-operated
29 laundromats, for sanitary reasons, do not allow customers to
30 wash cloth diapers; and

1 WHEREAS, Diaper need is also a significant issue for senior
2 citizens and incontinent adults; and

3 WHEREAS, For seniors and incontinent adults, the lack of
4 clean disposable undergarments poses a serious health risk that
5 could lead to extended hospital stays and even death; and

6 WHEREAS, Incontinence products could cost as much as \$1,000 a
7 year, which often serves as a financial burden to seniors and
8 incontinent adults on fixed incomes; and

9 WHEREAS, Community organizations across this Commonwealth are
10 doing their part to help with this epidemic by hosting diaper
11 donation drives, which are critical in providing these essential
12 materials to working families and incontinent adults in need and
13 raising awareness about the real implications of a widening
14 diaper supply gap; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network is committed to
16 working with community groups and raising awareness of the
17 diaper gap in America by building the capacity of community-
18 based diaper banks to serve families throughout this
19 Commonwealth; and

20 WHEREAS, There are more than 275 diaper banks recognized by
21 the National Diaper Bank Network, distributing nearly 35 million
22 diapers annually; and

23 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 11 diaper banks that are
24 recognized and active members of the National Diaper Bank
25 Network, distributing more than 1.3 million diapers per year to
26 communities across this Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, These diaper banks require community support and
28 donations of diapers and dollars to allow them to continue to
29 serve our communities; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

1 week of September 26 through October 2, 2016, as "Diaper Need
2 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
4 efforts of the National Diaper Bank Network and all community
5 organizations working to address the diaper gap in Pennsylvania;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
8 residents of this Commonwealth to support community
9 organizations and participate in diaper drives to help improve,
10 enhance and expand access to diapers for our Commonwealth's
11 children and incontinent adults.