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42ND DISTRICT

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Special Committee on Rules

Vice Chair- Committee on Insurance

Committee on Health

Committee on Public Utilities

Committee on Aging & Long Term
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Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 60
Ways and Means Committee
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Chairman Schaffer, Vice-Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 60, which would exempt child and adult diapers from sales tax.

In Ohio, personal hygiene products are already sales tax free. Diapers for both children and adults are not currently included in this exemption, despite the need for them. Families should not have to pay additional tax in order to purchase diapers, a medically necessary item. Diapers are not covered by federal government assistance programs, such as WIC or SNAP.

The sales tax on purchasing diapers over a period of several years can add up quickly, especially for families who are stretching their dollars to afford other necessities as well. As reported in an analysis by Fox 45, a box of name brand diapers costs \$42.99. If a baby needs its diaper changed approximately ten times per day, two boxes per month would need to be purchased. In my district, sales tax is 7.5%. Multiplied over a year, families could be spending over \$1,100 on diapers annually and could save approximately \$80 per year if sales tax was eliminated. That \$80 could make a difference in a family purchasing groceries, paying bills, and saving for emergencies.

As a part of everyday life for families, diapers should be included in the sales tax exemption on personal hygiene products. These diapers are not a luxury good and should not be taxed as such. Diapers are a necessary hygiene product for infants, and in some cases for adults as well. My bill would include disposable or washable diapers, including pull-ups, underpads, and liners. No family should have to decide between putting their dollars towards groceries or diapers. The savings that this bill could provide for families may not be significant in every case, but for families living below the poverty line, it could make a huge difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 60. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.