

February 26, 2019

Chairman Schaffer, Vice-Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 60.

My name is Margie Christie and I am the Executive Director of Dayton Right to Life. As many of you may or may not know, the 501 c 3 arm of our organization Dayton Right to Life Foundation has for several decades operated the Stork's Nest Baby Pantry. This pantry assists over 1,700 families a year, by providing basic necessities for children from newborn to 5 years old. We do not receive any government funding and rely solely on donations and grants. The majority of our clients are low-income families who receive some sort of financial assistance like WIC, the supplemental nutrition program. This assistance eases some of the financial burden for these families. Unfortunately, the cost of diapers is another significant cost for these families. In 2018, we provided over 33,000 diapers to our families, making a sizable and widespread issue.

And let's be honest, diapers, like food, are not something we can choose to do without. Diapers are not only for convenience sake, they are vital to the sanitary cleanliness of the home and to the health of the child. Diapers are a financial struggle already without the additional tax burden. As Rep. Antani pointed out in his sponsor introduction, average families could save at least \$80 a year if this legislation were to become law. \$80 a year for these families- means they could afford a small life insurance policy on their child, a small savings account, or perhaps even contribute to the College advantage 529 program. Additionally, I would like to respectfully remind committee members that this is an **average family savings**. We have several families who visit our Pantry with disabled children. Imagine the amount this exemption would save those families with disabled or developmentally delayed children that require diapers for years.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, we rely heavily on donations. I know my donors would truly appreciate the tax relief and perhaps would be inclined to donate more diapers, if they were indeed tax-exempt.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage this committee to approve House Bill 60 and eliminate the diaper tax. We cannot always do as much as we would like for families, but this is one simple, common sense action that can and will make an immediate impact for those struggling on a day to day basis. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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