

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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Ohio Chapter

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February 26, 2019

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee—

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 60, sponsored by State Representatives Niraj Antani and Brigid Kelly.

As you know, HB 60 would exempt diapers from the state sales tax. This bill would add Ohio to the growing number of states that have exempted diapers from sales taxes. Ohio's back to school sales tax holiday in August already covers diapers and this provided a welcome relief to parents.

Currently, 1 in 4 Ohio children (approximately 600,000) live in poverty and nearly half of Ohio kids are eligible for Medicaid coverage. For parents of these children, even a modest amount of savings from diaper purchases can have a significant impact on the health of their children.

Children require at least 50 diaper changes a week; this works out to nearly 3,000 diaper changes annually. Unfortunately, diapers are not covered by social welfare programs and low income families can have a difficult time affording this important product. HB 60 would lower the cost barrier for parents and would help ensure that children and adults have access to diapers.

HB 60 is an important piece of pro-children legislation and I hope that you will support this measure. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics