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**Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 118 – Proponent Testimony
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Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present proponent testimony on House Bill 118.

Bottoms Up Diaper Bank was founded four years ago with a very simple focus and mission: to help the poor (and, especially mothers living below the poverty line) by partnering with food pantries, child care facilities, domestic abuse shelters, and other community partners to supply one of the basic needs of these mothers: diapers for their babies.

Since then, Bottoms Up has distributed more than 3 million diapers in 16 Ohio counties at no cost to the recipients.

The poor live in a world that most of us don't understand and they have to make choices that most of us haven't had to make. The allocation of scarce resources to purchase food, medical care, clothing, shelter, and other necessities is in constant consideration and diapers and other baby products are in the midst of that consideration.

The National Diaper Bank Network estimates that 1 out of every 3 families can't afford enough diapers to keep their baby clean, dry, and healthy. Within one mile of this chamber today, there is a mother who is forced to leave a diaper on too long or scrape out a diaper to re-use it because she has to make other choices.

Relieving the burden of taxation from diapers and other baby products can offer these mothers just a little much needed breathing room while having only a minor impact on total state revenue.

Thank you, again, Chairman Roemer and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 118. Please be in touch with me with any questions or if I can be of any further service.