

May 22, 2023

Savannah Marten

Bella Vita Network

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 118, exempting certain baby items from sales tax. As a director of a life-affirming ministry located in Toledo and a leader of the Ohio Coalition of Pregnancy Centers, I have seen firsthand the burden that baby supplies like diapers, wipes, formula, car seats and strollers can have on the parents of a young child. While a sales tax exemption of some of these items is no magic wand for struggling families in Ohio, it definitely eases the burden. It also makes a statement to mothers and fathers in our great state that Ohio is for families

Many times, in our baby boutique where we hand out thousands of dollars' worth of items like the ones listed above, the look of relief that comes upon a new mom or dad's face when they see all the items available to them at no cost, is convicting. This bill is a step towards helping our fellow neighbors, parents, feel a small sense of relief. These items aren't a luxury, but they are necessities for mothers and father to parent well in our great state.

Thank you for considering, and in conviction, passing this important, and relieving bill.