

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

February 15th, 2023

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing, III
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
Ohio Senate
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for Senate Bill 39, sponsored by State Senator Tim Schaffer. This legislation would exempt baby products from the state sales tax, providing much needed financial relief to families across the Buckeye State.

As you know, the costs associated with raising a child are ever increasing and parents are doing everything they can to provide for their children and keep them safe and healthy. By exempting baby products from the state sales tax, we can lower the cost of diapers and wipes, car and booster seats, baby carriers, strollers, cribs, and baby monitors. This is a meaningful action we can take to support parents and caregivers in Ohio.

During sponsor testimony, Senator Schaffer noted that the total fiscal impact of SB 39 would range from \$50 million to \$70 million, which represents an extraordinarily small portion of total sales tax revenue. Further, a similar proposal was included in Governor DeWine's budget proposal and a number of states have enacted similar tax relief. Our members are committed to keeping children healthy and safe, and this legislation supports that work.

In closing, it is my hope that you will pass SB 39 and take this important step to supporting Ohio children and families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Ohio Chapter

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