

TESTIMONY OF BOBBI DYNICE
Appropriations Committee
March 3, 2021

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Bobbi Dynice, and I am student at Quinnipiac University. Through my courses I have learned about the value of The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, which serves families throughout the state. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning regarding my support for restoring funding for The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, which will allow the organization to continue the critical work of providing basic human needs to Connecticut's most vulnerable families.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, diaper need impacted over 35,000 infants and toddlers in our state. The state's allocation of \$333,333 equates to the cost of a supplemental supply of diapers covering 7% of the need that existed in our state. We know the need for diapers has only grown since then and we need support to continue to meet it. As a supporter of The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, I know that diapers are a basic human need for every baby and toddler. Diapers are vital to the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of children and their families. Prior to the pandemic, one in three Connecticut families struggled to afford an adequate supply of diapers; *now the need is at an all-time high.*

With restored funding, The Diaper Bank will be able to continue to provide diapers to Connecticut's most vulnerable at a time when they are critically needed to individuals who are low income or financially struggling.

Through my courses and research about the issue of diaper need, I have learned about the widespread negative mental health and economic issues created by a lack of diapers. Diapers, period products, and senior incontinence products are basic human needs that are required for the health and well-being of families. I urge the members of the Appropriations Committee to support restoring state funding for The Diaper Bank of Connecticut because all Connecticut families deserve access to these basic human needs.

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