



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE CAROLINE SIMMONS**  
144TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**CHAIRWOMAN**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 2, 2021

Senator Cathy Osten, Co-Chair  
Representative Toni Walker, Co-Chair  
Senator Craig Minor, Ranking Member  
Representative Mike France, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue Hartford CT, 06106

To Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Minor, Representative France, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you 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.

Diapers are essential to the physical health of babies, as clean diapers help reduce rashes, urinary tract infections, and diaper dermatitis. More broadly, diaper-related conditions contribute to an increase in pediatric and emergency room visits, amounting to approximately 1 million pediatric visits annually. Diapers are also critical to the mental health of mothers and child development outcomes, as maternal mental health has been increasingly linked with the mental health of children, as parental stress can negatively impact social and emotional development for children. For all these reasons, the physical and mental health of families is closely connected to diaper access and affordability.

As a supporter of The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, and a mother, 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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Simmons', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Simmons  
State Representative - 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District