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Proponent HB 2111

In writing only

In 2022, HappyBottoms distributed more than 2.3 million diapers, serving an average of 3400 children a month. 85 percent of children we serve live below the Federal Poverty Level which is \$26,500 a year. And 38% lived in deep poverty; \$12,170 for a family of four. I'd ask you to imagine \$100 a month coming out of your pocket for diapers when you only started with around \$1000.

There are several reasons to eliminate this tax. Sales tax is a regressive tax, families making \$20,000 a year pay the same tax as someone making \$300,000, so low-income families are most affected.

It puts money back into the economy. Money that families save not having to pay this sales tax will be used for other basic needs and go right back into the economy.

There is bi-partisan support for this type of legislation. Seventeen states have already exempted diapers from sales tax, most recently Florida. Missouri and Georgia have similar bills moving through the house with bipartisan support.

It's pro-family. Inflation continues to hurt families as they purchase their most basic needs. Tax relief can mitigate the burden on families so that they can raise healthy children.

You have the power to help, to lift off some of the burden for families. For grandparents who find themselves raising their grandchildren. For single moms. For moms like Rachel, who says, quoting: "... I have a two-year-old daughter named Eve. When I was first pregnant I started looking for resources that I would need for my newborn. I looked at HappyBottoms and signed up for diapers when Eve was six-months old. Since Eve's father and I split up, it has been a struggle and I have had to do everything on my own. Eve goes to daycare while I work and they do not provide diapers or pull-ups. So being a client of HappyBottoms has provided us with the diapers and pull-ups needed at home and at daycare so that I can work full time and support us."

The time is now. I implore each of you to faithfully consider these testimonies and pass this much-needed bill.

Thank you,

Ashley Allison