



Making Diapers More Affordable for Illinois Families

Legislation by Senator Villa and Representative Collins

Caregivers in poverty are faced with many difficult decisions to provide for their family - pay the electric bill or rent or medical bills or buy food. How to pay for diapers is yet another difficult choice. Diaper need is a serious issue experienced by **approximately 1 in 3 parents**.¹ Caregivers experiencing diaper need cannot afford to keep their child clean and dry, often stretching for hours without a diaper change or using inadequate options as a substitute.

Issue

Costs for Families

Infants and toddlers go through up to **12 diapers per day** which can cost families between \$80 to \$100 per month per child?² And those costs are rising. A recent report found the cost of disposable diapers increased 20 percent from 2021 to 2022.³ When you include the 12 percent increase from June 2019 to June 2021,⁴ **diaper prices have increased by over 30 percent** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This cost is a huge burden for struggling families.

Impacts on Health

When children wear diapers for too long or wear diaper substitutes, they can experience irritation, prolonged diaper rash, or even UTIs. These issues can lead to longer-term, expensive health complications. A 2019 study found that clean diapers from a diaper bank saved families **\$1,448 a year in medical costs**⁵ Parents often know exactly how many diapers they have left for their child and this "diaper math" leads to added caregiver stress on mental health and well-being.

The Policy Solution

For Illinois to be one of the best states to raise a family, we must enact policies providing access to clean diapers, a basic need for children and families. The Ahlquist Center at Children's Home & Aid is collaborating on legislation to create a **monthly allowance for families** of certain incomes to **purchase diapers**. The diaper allowance, similar to legislation enacted in California and Washington, would provide resources directly to families who need it the most and impact **over 100,000 children and their families**.

SB1294/HB1347



Nationally, **1 in 3** parents report experiencing a diaper need¹

12

Diapers needed on average per day for infants and toddlers



\$80-\$100

Every month per child for diapers²

\$1,448

money saved on medical bills for families who were able to access diapers from a diaper bank⁵

57%

of families who received diapers from the Diaper Bank of Connecticut reported avoiding child care due to lack of diapers

resulting in, on average, **4 days** of work being missed⁵

\$11

increase in family income for every \$1 of diaper aid received⁶

1 Diaper Need and its Impact on U.S. Families." National Diaper Bank Network. Diaper-Need-and-Its-Impact-on-US-Families.pdf (nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org), pg 1

2 National Diaper Bank Network. NDBN_DiaperNeed_Overview_February_2020.docx.pdf (nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org), pg 1

3 Meyersohn, N. "Diapers cost families a fortune, but now some states will stop taxing them." CNN Business <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/25/economy/diapers-sales-tax-new-york/index.html>

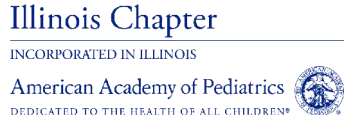
4 Terlep, S. "Rising Diaper Prices Prompt States to Get Behind Push to Pay." The Wall Street Journal. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/states-get-behind-push-to-pay-for-diapers-11627045200>

5 Carstensen, F. & Gunther, P. "Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families: The social and economic impacts of the diaper bank of Connecticut." Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis. <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-Social-and-Economic-Impacts-of-the-Diaper-Bank-of-Connecticut.pdf>, pg 9

6 see 5, pg 6



Organizations in Support



Bundled Blessings Diaper Bank
Firehouse Community Arts Center
Kids Above All
Lurie Children's Care Coordination
NYAP New Beginnings Program
Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
Renaissance Social Services
Shriver Center on Poverty Law

