

California Diaper Changes to Benefit Babies and Families

Monthly \$50 diaper vouchers for families in need, are included in diaper bills to be voted on this week by California Assembly.

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES, January 25, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Renowned as a forerunner for social, cultural, and legislative changes that impact the entire country, California may soon extend its influence to include diapers.

The California Assembly is expected to vote, this week, on two “diaper” bills, AB 492 and AB 717. The passage of the bills would effectively improve the well-being of infants and toddlers statewide, and intensify national momentum for the rapidly growing diaper bank movement that is addressing diaper need in communities throughout the U.S.

Upon passage, AB 492 would provide a monthly \$50 diaper voucher for parents in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program, and also to parents of children under 2-years-old who are enrolled

CalWORKs child care program. The supplement would ensure that struggling families have supplies of diapers needed to keep their children clean, dry, and healthy. Currently, no state or federal assistance programs provide diapers, a basic need of all babies.

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diaper need. Both bills will provide targeted support to low-wage and struggling families who would also benefit from the passage of AB 717. The bill would exempt diapers from the state’s sales tax, thereby putting dollars back in the pockets of all Californians who purchase diapers for infants and toddlers. The legislation would allow families to buy an additional 13 diapers each month. While modest, the savings are significant to improving the



The National Diaper Bank Network, and its more than 280-member diaper banks, work to reduce diaper need, which impacts one in three U.S. families.



**National
Diaper Bank
Network**

“The monthly supplement would only be used on diaper purchases, helping address a major barrier to parents seeking to enter and remain in the workforce by making child care more accessible,” according to California State Assemblywoman [Lorena Gonzalez](#) (D-San Diego).

physical and financial health of young families, many of whom struggle to meet the costs of basic need items.

“We strongly endorse both bills, and have been working closely with Assemblywoman Gonzalez, who authored and introduced both bills,” said Alison Weir, director of policy, research, and analysis for the [National Diaper Bank Network](#) (NDBN). “Lorena is a good friend of NDBN and a champion in the effort to end diaper need. Both bills will provide targeted support to families most likely to experience diaper need.”

Weir presented expert testimony on diaper need and state sales tax policies nationwide to the Assembly last year.

If the respective bills become law, California will be the first state to address diaper need through a statewide assistance program, and the eighth state to exempt diapers from state sales tax, the latter according to NDBN’s 50 state Diaper Sales Tax survey.

This past November, San Francisco became the first city in the country to fund a program that distributes diapers to families. The program, which helps families already receiving CalWORK’s assistance, operates through the San Francisco Human Services Agency (SF-HSA), via a grant to NDBN-member Help A Mother Out, which administers the initiative. According to SF-HSA research, a single parent working a full-time minimum wage job will spend 8 percent of her annual income, or about \$1,872, on diapers a year.

“California continues to serve as a model for other states interested in addressing diaper need,” said Weir. “The passage of these bills could also have a positive impact on a bill currently in the House of Representatives, HR 4055, which would provide a block grant for states interested in demonstrating how a diaper distribution program could work in their state.”

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez represents the 80th Assembly District, which includes Chula Vista, National City and the San Diego neighborhoods of City Heights, Barrio Logan, Paradise Hills, San Ysidro and Otay Mesa. For more information, visit <http://asmcd.org/members/a80/>.

The National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) is a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to eliminating diaper need in America, by leading a national movement to safeguard one of the most basic needs of all babies and their families...access to clean, dry diapers. Founded in 2011 with the support of Huggies®, the network raises national awareness of diaper need (#DiaperNeed) and supports the development and expansion of diaper banks in communities throughout the country. Its active membership includes more than 280 diaper banks, diaper pantries and food banks located in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. More information on NDBN and diaper need is available at www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org, and on Twitter (www.twitter.com/DiaperNetwork) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/NationalDiaperBankNetwork).

Troy Moore
National Diaper Bank Network
203-821-1754 Alison Weir, National Diaper
email us here Bank Network

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