

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 5 through 11, 2014, as "Diaper Need
2 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Diaper Need Awareness Week will bring attention to
4 the insufficient supply of disposable diapers for children of
5 this Commonwealth to remain clean, dry and healthy; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Diaper Bank Network reports that nearly
7 6 million babies in the United States three years of age or
8 younger are living in low-income families nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the 2010 United States Census, 17% of
10 families living in poverty in this Commonwealth have children
11 who are five years of age or younger; and

12 WHEREAS, Access to a reliable supply of clean diapers is a
13 necessity for the health and well-being of infants and toddlers,
14 their families, and child and health care providers; and

15 WHEREAS, Estimates show that disposable diapers cost as much
16 as \$150 per child per month; and

17 WHEREAS, One in every three mothers finds it difficult to

1 provide diapers for her children; and

2 WHEREAS, A supply of diapers is usually a requirement for
3 infants and toddlers to attend and participate in child-care
4 programs; and

5 WHEREAS, When infants and toddlers cannot participate in
6 child-care programs, it makes it difficult for parents and
7 guardians to participate in the work force, which has a negative
8 impact on the economy; and

9 WHEREAS, Infants and toddlers who are living in households
10 with little or no access to diapers could spend a day or longer
11 in one diaper, leading to significant potential health risks;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Most public resources, such as food stamps and the
14 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, do not help offset
15 the costs of these needed items; and

16 WHEREAS, Those families living in poverty often do not have
17 access to personal washing machines, and most coin-operated
18 laundromats, for sanitary reasons, do not allow customers to
19 wash cloth diapers; and

20 WHEREAS, Community organizations across this Commonwealth are
21 doing their part to help with this epidemic by hosting diaper
22 donation drives, which are critical in providing these essential
23 materials to working families in need and raising awareness
24 about the real implications of a widening diaper supply gap; and

25 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives encourages citizens of
26 this Commonwealth to participate in diaper banks, diaper drives
27 and to support community organizations that distribute diapers
28 to families in need of these vital resources; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 week of May 5 through 11, 2014, as "Diaper Need Awareness Week"

1 in Pennsylvania.