

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 16, 2023

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# NEW LAW WILL GIVE TEXAS FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ON DIAPERS, OTHER NECESSITIES

End of sales tax starting Sept. 1 just one win to curb diaper need in Texas

Texas families will get major tax relief under a new law that will end the sales tax on diapers, wipes, period supplies and other necessities starting Sept. 1, with the signing of <u>Senate Bill 379</u> on Friday (June 16) by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The new law was applauded by the <u>Texas Coalition of Diaper Banks</u>, comprised of five diaper banks that distribute millions of diapers annually to families in need, that advocated for its passage. Removing the sales tax on diapers will save Texas families an average of \$87 each year, enough to purchase a month's supply of diapers or pay for other basic needs.

The Texas Legislature also passed a measure in its biennial state budget that will, for the first time, provide \$2.8 million for Coalition diaper banks to expand their diaper distribution to areas of Texas that now are not served.

In the U.S., 1 in 2 families struggle to afford enough diapers for their children, according to a <u>study released Thursday</u> (June 15) by the <u>National Diaper Bank Network</u> (NDBN). Texas is now the <u>18<sup>th</sup> state</u> that does not levy a sales tax on diapers, according to the NDBN. When families run short on diapers, they may reuse dirty diapers or keep their child in soiled diapers for longer periods of time to save money, leading to health problems for both the child and the caregiver.

#### Reaction from Texas Coalition of Diaper Bank members and the National Diaper Bank Network:

## <u>Austin Diaper Bank</u> – Holly McDaniel, executive director:

"We are thrilled to see Texas prioritize the health and well-being of families, babies and women by removing the sales tax on essential items. This is a great step towards a healthier Texas."

#### Hope Supply Co. (Dallas) – Barbara Johnson, CEO:

"I am very happy that Texas is taking this important and necessary first step to address issues that Texas families are facing to properly raise their children."

# Texas Diaper Bank (San Antonio) – Jorge Medina, CEO:

"The passage of this bill is monumental as it will reduce the expense of essentials for Texas families. This is important, especially in assuring the health and well-being of Texas babies, seniors and women."

# National Diaper Bank Network – Lacey Gero, manager of state policy:

"By passing this legislation, Texas joins a growing number of states that are eliminating sales taxes on diapers. We are incredibly excited to see this bill pass and the recognition from the state that families need this relief."

## **Key Texas statistics – diaper need and diaper banks:**

Find other Texas diaper facts here.

• Texas has 11 National Diaper Bank Network members that distributed 8.1 million diapers in 2022, helping more than 13,500 infants and toddlers monthly.

- Texas diaper banks are located in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, McKinney, San Antonio, and Spring.
- Texas diaper banks work with 284 partner agencies to distribute diapers in their respective towns, cities, and surrounding areas.
- Texas has a population of 1.5 million children under age 3. Of those, 23% live in families earning less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 24% living in families earning 100% to 200%.