



Maryland National Organization for Women

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Maryland NOW Urges Rep. Hoyer's Support for Inclusion of Diapers under SNAP Provisions in the American Rescue Plan

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer,

Maryland NOW is writing in support of the End Diaper Need Act HB1846. We believe that in our work on behalf of women in Maryland the issues addressed in this legislation would be of tremendous help and is long overdue.

However, women who have struggled with the issue of paying for diapers for their infant children when these products are not a part of covered benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), face even greater hardships now in the very difficult times in which we are living. This issue is more pressing than it has ever been.

We understand that you and Rep. Barbara Lee are the Co-Chairs of the Majority Leader's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, and have the ability to add diapers as a covered item under the SNAP benefits in the COVID 19 Rescue Plan.

We also understand that the American Rescue Plan is being written now, and that while Rep. Lee's House bill is in the works as HB 1846, it would be an incredibly important and advantageous move to include coverage for diapers on an emergency basis under SNAP.

Your leadership on this issue as a part of the American Rescue Plan is much needed, not only for the women of Maryland but for the millions of women in this country who are dealing with unprecedented challenges just feeding and providing housing and care for their families.

We hope that you will make this a high priority – both as HB 1846 and as a part of the SNAP benefits as defined in the American Rescue Plan. Thank you for your consideration, and feel free to contact our organization if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Bell".

Sandy Bell
President
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women