

**TESTIMONY OF Christine Kindblom**

**Committee on Children**

**February 17, 2015**

Good evening Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Committee on Children. My name is Christine Kindblom, and I am a mother of 2, and resident of Bristol, CT. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you this evening.

**I support HB 6595, *AN ACT EXEMPTING BABY DIAPERS FROM THE SALES TAX***; this bill would include baby diapers as exempt from the sales tax in Connecticut in the same manner as adult diapers, which are already tax exempt as a medical necessity.

- In low-income households, babies often spend the entire day or longer in a single diaper. Inadequate diaper changing increases the risk of numerous health problems including diaper rash and an increased rate of hepatitis.
- There are no federal subsidies for diapers. Families cannot use SNAP (Food stamps) or WIC to purchase diapers.
- Most licensed day care centers do not accept cloth diapers, and require parents and caregivers to provide a steady supply of disposable diapers. Low-income parents cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave disposable diapers at childcare centers. If parents cannot access daycare, then they are less able to attend work or school on a consistent basis. This in turn leads to increased economic instability and a continuation of the cycle of poverty.
- Most people living in poverty do not have affordable access to washing facilities. Furthermore, most coin-operated laundromats do not allow customers to wash cloth diapers for health and sanitary reasons.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christine Kindblom

32 Willcox Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
860-584-5049