

115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05633
TEL: (802) 828-2228
FAX: (802) 828-2424



SEN. VIRGINIA "GINNY" LYONS, CHAIR
SEN. RUTH HARDY, VICE CHAIR
SEN. ANN CUMMINGS
SEN. CHERYL HOOKER
SEN. JOSHUA TEREZINI

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
WELFARE

February 23, 2022

Hon. Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Peter Welch
House of Representatives
United States Congress
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Welch and Senators Leahy and Sanders:

As you are aware, the pandemic has emphasized many needs for families that previously appeared less significant. The work of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare (Committee) has revealed cost barriers that prohibit people from purchasing products to meet their basic needs. Products such as diapers, adult absorbent products, and menstrual products are essential in contributing to an individual's health and dignity.

Currently, diapers, adult absorbent products, and menstrual products are not eligible for purchase using federal assistance programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits. While the Committee understands that these programs focus on food and nutrition assistance, it seeks your assistance in advocating for addressing supplemental coverage of these essential products for SNAP and WIC participants. The Committee understands that there may be relevant federal legislation pending before Congress this session, including H.R.259-End Diaper Need Act of 2021, and urges you to support such measures. The Committee asks you to continue your thoughtful attention to the basic needs of Vermonters by supporting this modest initiative.

Thank you for your attention to the Committee's concerns and for all that you do for Vermont. The Committee looks forward to working with you on this and other important issues in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Senator Ginny Lyons, Chair