



GIVE MISSOURI FAMILIES A TAX CUT

SUPPORT

HB 351

REP. CHRISTOFANELLI
(R-ST. PETERS)

SB 73

SEN. TRENT
(R-SPRINGFIELD)

ELIMINATE THE REGRESSIVE SALES TAX ON DIAPERS AND FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Missouri Taxes Diapers and Feminine Hygiene Products Like They're Luxury Products

- Missouri taxes diapers and feminine hygiene products at **4.225%**.
- Missouri taxes other necessities at lower rates:
 - Groceries are taxed at **1.225%**
 - Many healthcare products, such as hearing aids and wheelchairs, are tax exempt

DIAPER NEED



- Babies need about **6 to 8** diapers every day. That's about **2,555 diapers** every year.¹
- About **36%** of U.S. parents with children aged 0-3 struggle to meet their child's diaper needs.²
- Parents who can't afford enough diapers report changing their babies' diapers less frequently.^{3,4,5} **Less frequent diaper changes put babies at risk for urinary tract infections, skin infections, and diaper dermatitis.**^{6,7,8,9}
- Parents who can't afford enough diapers also report **skipping on food purchases** to buy diapers.^{10,11}

PERIOD POVERTY



- In a survey of low-income women seeking services from St. Louis community organizations, **64% couldn't afford enough feminine hygiene products** to manage their period at least once a year. **21%** couldn't afford enough every month.¹²
- **33.6% of girls** surveyed at a high-need St. Louis high school had **skipped school in the past year** because they couldn't afford enough feminine hygiene products to get through the school day. **16.8% skipped school at least once every month** because they couldn't afford enough feminine hygiene products.¹³

- ¹Porter, S. & Steefel, L. (2015). Diaper need: a change for better health. *Pediatric Nursing* 41(3): 141 – 144. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sallie-Porter/publication/280391690_Diaper_Need_A_Change_for_Better_Health/links/5867dd3e08ae6eb871b751a1/Diaper-Need-A-Change-for-Better-Health.pdf
- ²Sobowale, K., Clayton, A., & Smith, M.V. (2021). Diaper need is associated with pediatric care use: an analysis of a nationally representative sample of parents of young children. *The Journal of Pediatrics* 230: 146 – 151. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.10.061>
- ³Smith, M.V., Kruse, A., Weir, A., Goldblum, J. (2013). Diaper need and its impact on child health. *Pediatrics* 132(2): 253–259.
- ⁴Belarmino, E.H., Malinowski, A., & Flynn, K. (2021). Diaper need is associated with risk for food insecurity in a statewide sample of participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). *Preventive Medicine Reports* 22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101332>
- ⁵Randles, J. (2022). Fixing a leaky U.S. social safety net: diapers, policy, and low-income families. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 8(5): 166 – 183. DOI:10.7758/RSF.2022.8.5.08.
- ⁶Adalat, S., Wall, D., & Goodyear, H. (2007). Diaper dermatitis frequency and contributory factors in hospital attending children. *Pediatric Dermatology* 24(5):483 – 488. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1525-1470.2007.00499.x>
- ⁷Sugimura, T., Tananari, Y., Ozaki, Y., Maeno, Y., Tanaka, S., Ito, S., Kawano, K., & Masunaga, K. (2009). Association between the frequency of disposable diaper changing and urinary tract infection in infants. *Clinical Pediatrics* 48(1):18-20. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0009922808320696>
- ⁸Porter & Steefel, *ibid*.
- ⁹Sobowale, Clayton, & Smith, *ibid*.
- ¹⁰Belarmino, *ibid*.
- ¹¹Randles, *ibid*.
- ¹²Sebert Kuhlmann, A., Peters Bergquist, E., Danjoint, D., & Lewis Wall, L. (2019). Unmet menstrual hygiene needs among low-income women. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 133(2):238-244. doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000003060
- ¹³Sebert Kuhlmann, A., Teni, M.T., Billingsley, C., & Key, R. (2021). Period product insecurity, school absenteeism, and use of school resources to obtain period products among high school students in St. Louis, Missouri. *The Journal of School Nursing*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10598405211069601>