



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 351		DATE: 3/21/2023	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 11:04 PM	
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I am in Support of this Bill and to exempt these items from "Missouri State, County and Local Sales Tax!" This shall include ALL Food, Water, Drinks, Hygiene Products, Facial Products, shaving, deodorant, tooth-paste and many other life sustaining items.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DEIDRE ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-994-5413	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EARLYSTART		TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 2008 E. 12TH STREET			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64127
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY HONIG		PHONE NUMBER: 616-401-0487	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 4567 W PINE BLVD, APT 129			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: holly@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/17/2023 12:42 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Date: **March 21, 2023**To: **Representative Kelly, Chairperson, and Members of the House Children and Families Committee**From: **Holly Honig, Policy Director, Empower Missouri**RE: **Support for HB 351**

As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. We convene coalitions made up of individuals and organizations who are working to ensure every Missourian has access to food, equal access to justice, and safe, affordable, stable housing. We are providing testimony today in support of HB 351. Missouri low-income families, women and children are struggling, and both of these bills seek to provide a part of what is much-needed relief to families and individuals purchasing diapers, incontinence products, and period products. We know either of these bills will have a positive impact through savings in personal budgets over time. These are absolutely essential products for babies' and women's health and quality of life.

By enacting limits or (preferably) exemptions for diapers and feminine hygiene products, Missouri would join a growing list of states that have provided this form of relief. Menstrual products are already tax-free in 24 states. And 21 states do not tax diapers. In Missouri, 14% of SNAP Recipients are under age 3. 36% of TANF families have one child or more under age 3. Roughly 40% of births are covered by Medicaid. And 27% of WIC recipients are infants. The only federal assistance program that allows families to buy diapers is the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF), but TANF is also what families use to cover many other basic needs such as heat, water, gaps in rent, and transportation. Often there is not enough money to go around and hard decisions have to be made. Relief from the taxes on diapers and feminine hygiene is a start. It may not be an intuitive connection, but these changes will also support workers. Most childcare facilities require parents to provide diapers for their child. National data from the National Diaper Bank Network indicates 57% of parents experiencing diaper need who rely on childcare said they missed an average of four days of school or work in the past month because they didn't have diapers. This puts their employment at risk, as well as other supports they are receiving at risk. As we know, not working can disqualify a parent from vital childcare resources. Empower Missouri urges this committee to consider the spirit of these bills and provide support for our women and families struggling to make ends meet. Please take action to provide the greatest amount of tax relief possible. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAMAL GURSAHANI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kgursahani@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/17/2023 9:03 AM
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Hello, Many women and girls are struggling to support themselves financially with rising inflation especially around essential needs like food and feminine hygiene products. Any assistance from the government to make feminine products more affordable could help women and girls live healthier and happier lives and be able to work and study with less fear of embarrassment or shaming. I fully support this bill and I hope that it passes! Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE AMALIA GLADHART-HAYES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katherine.gladhart.hayes@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 8:45 AM
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It is unreasonable to tax diapers and menstrual products as luxury items. These are absolutely essential items, and the tax presents a huge burden to individuals and families in our state. Where I live in St. Louis, 46% of low-income women have had to choose between food and menstrual products. As a society and as individuals, we are morally obligated to support those in need in our communities. Passing this sales tax exemption is an important way to do that.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIM P JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kpjones80@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2023 5:44 PM
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I urge passage of this important legislation. There is no reason for this state to impose taxes on feminine hygiene products, which all women must purchase for their health. There is no reason for this state to impose taxes on diapers, which all mothers must purchase for their babies. As you know, the effect on low-income women and babies, and their health and welfare, is significant. A tax exemption for these items would help thousands of low-income families and individuals afford basic essentials, and improve the health and welfare of these individuals. Thank you for considering this matter.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN KREISEL		PHONE NUMBER: 660-723-6000	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 25276 BUTTERFIELD TRAIL			
CITY: WARSAW		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65355
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LUKE BARBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: luke.t.barber@umsl.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 2:52 AM
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I am in support of this bill with slight modifications of certain definitions as it is not just toddlers and infants that wear diapers and or use incontinence and feminine hygiene products. This bill also impacts the elderly and disabled and those with medical conditions. Previously the only way to get incontinence and hygiene products without paying sales tax was to go through health insurance and use a medical supplier with a prescription or order from a doctor. When it comes to these products it is not simply one size fits all and it also has varied sizes and different levels of leak protection. Therefore it is important to recognize the bills definitions as currently written do not have the true intent and true implementation as it was probably meant to exempt more of these types of product and include all those who needed to use them. Therefore I recommend that a Committee Substitute be offered with changes to the definitions to more broadly define diapers, incontinence and feminine hygiene and that age limits and other terms that limit those eligible for this exemption be removed or modified as needed.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: PRO CHOICE MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@prochoicemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2023 12:41 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Chair, Vice-Chair, members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 351 which would expand critical access to menstrual products and diapers for hundreds of thousands of Missourians and Missouri families. Pro-Choice Missouri works to protect and expand every Missourian’s right to bodily autonomy, to access essential reproductive healthcare, to access accurate information in order to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, and to parent our children in safety and dignity. More than one half of Missourians will require menstrual products in their reproductive years, including pads, tampons, pantyliners, menstrual cups, and/ or reusable period under garments. These products are currently taxed as luxury items in Missouri, even though these products are a necessity. Underserved communities including adolescents, people surviving economic insecurity, and LGBTQIA individuals also face a disproportionate lack of access to these products due to financial barriers, existing health disparities, and stigmatization. An extensive 88% of women agree period products are a basic need, but the tax often barres them from purchasing the products they need to be healthy and safe. In fact, this past year one in four women struggled to purchase menstrual products due to lack of income. Of these individuals of low income, one in five report missing school, work, and other events due to a lack of access to affordable period supplies. Often lack of access also leads to actions that put people’s health at risk, like stretching product usage, or using substitute products like socks or toilet paper. To top these harrowing statistics, access to pads, tampons, reusable under-garments and menstrual cups is also exceedingly difficult when state and federal safety net programs can not be used to purchase these necessary items. Exempting the sales tax on these products will elevate the quality of life for half of Missouri’s population. It will help more people access the period products they need to ensure that they stay healthy and can fully participate in the state’s economy. It will ensure families can afford to provide the quality care for their children. Pro-Choice Missouri, representing more than 70,000 Missourians across the state, supports the advancement of this bill, and urges you to vote YES today on HB 351 in order to expand the eligible population and services to improve health outcomes for all Missouri parents and children. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MURIEL SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-624-0888	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 6141 ETZEL AVENUE, ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63133
EMAIL: msmith@stldiaperbank.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2023 3:46 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNOCOLOGIST - MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICH AUBUCHON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-1845	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 112 EAST HIGH ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 6:03 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/18/2023 2:02 PM
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These items are not luxuries and should not be taxed.