



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 483		DATE: 4/1/2025
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: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 11:32 PM
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I am in Support of this of this Bill. I would like to see Diapers, Hygiene Products, Adult Diapers, Medical Devices and Equipment, Men's and Women's Vitamins, Band-Aids, Hydrogen-Peroxide, Water, Fruit sand basic human supplies Exempt from all Taxes. In addition, I would like to see the elimination and exemption of all State Sales Taxes, County Sales Taxes and Local Sales Taxes.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE. P.O. BOX 1022		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 4:23 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY STOINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emilysto@rocketmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 8:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am writing today in strong support of HB 483. Personal care products continue to rise in price and cost, and they are noted as more of a luxury, versus being coded as a necessary product, such as food. Because individuals in need of this product, including women and people with uterus, they are unavoidable costs. Women and people with uteruses often make significantly less money than their male counterparts, therefore, when these costs are factored in, they are having to expend more living costs (if you will) than their male counterparts. I urge everyone to vote in support of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ILONA GAY LITTEKEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: glitteken@fc4c.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 3:49 PM

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

March 31, 2025 Chairperson and Members of the Committee, My name is Gay Litteken and I am the Executive Director of First Chance for Children in Columbia, Missouri. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 483, which would authorize a sales tax exemption for essential health products, including diapers, incontinence products, feminine hygiene products, and prenatal and menstrual-supporting vitamins or minerals. As someone who works closely with families and individuals in need, I have seen firsthand how the cost of these necessary items creates financial hardship for those who can least afford it. Diapers, period products, and incontinence supplies are not luxuries—they are basic needs, just like food and medicine. However, unlike food and medicine, these items are still taxed, placing an unfair burden on low-income families, older adults, and individuals with medical needs. For many families, the inability to afford diapers leads to devastating consequences. Parents are forced to stretch diaper use, leading to painful rashes, infections, and emotional stress. Childcare facilities often require a supply of diapers, meaning parents who cannot afford them may be unable to work or attend school. Similarly, individuals who lack access to period products face work and school absences, and those who rely on incontinence supplies for medical reasons may suffer health complications due to insufficient access. This bill is a common-sense solution to address economic and health disparities. By removing the sales tax on these necessary products, Missouri can take a meaningful step toward supporting families, women, older adults, and individuals with medical conditions who rely on these supplies. At a time when families are already struggling with rising costs, this measure would provide much-needed relief and dignity to those in our communities. I urge you to support HB 483 and ensure that Missouri prioritizes health, equity, and economic fairness for all its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Gay Litteken
 First Chance for Children
 glitteken@fc4c.org



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES MCSPADDEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmcspadden12@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 2:47 PM

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

My name is James McSpadden. I am a resident of St. Louis and the Vice President of the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank Board of Directors. Let me first express my thanks to the Chair and the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testify today in support of HB 483. I am sorry that I can't be with you today, but I want to express my strong support for this bill, which seeks to provide critical assistance to families and diaper banks across Missouri. As you know, access to diapers and period supplies is an essential need for families, particularly for low-income households. Diapers are a basic necessity for infants and toddlers, yet they are not covered by government assistance programs such as SNAP or WIC. Similarly, period supplies are a necessity for women, yet 1 in 4 teens in the US has missed class due to lack of access to period supplies. Nationwide, over 50% of families with infants report experiencing diaper need at some point, meaning they lack enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy and Missouri is no exception. Yet, Missouri is one of 25 states that currently charge sales tax on diapers. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, children require at least 50 diaper changes per week or 200 diaper changes per month. By reducing the sales tax, families can buy 2 additional diapers for every percentage point reduction in the sales tax for the same money they would have used to buy 200 diapers with tax. Put another way, the tax is some \$60 annually for most families—a drop in the budget to state coffers, but real money to many families. Additionally, period poverty is pervasive in our state. A recent study showed that 46% of low-income women in St. Louis have had to choose between food and menstrual hygiene products. Additionally, 2/3 of low-income women in St. Louis could not afford menstrual hygiene products over the course of the last year. Missouri is one of and one of 30 states that taxes period supplies. Last year, the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank distributed over 3 million diapers and nearly 1 million period supplies across 8 counties in Missouri and Illinois, helping to alleviate the financial burden on families who are already facing the challenges of poverty. This assistance is crucial, as many parents must choose between buying diapers and providing for other basic needs like food or housing. By supporting this bill, we can help diaper banks like the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank expand our reach, enhance our capacity, and ultimately improve the quality of life for families throughout Missouri. Investing in the tax relief spelled out in HB 483 is an investment in the well-being of Missouri's children and families. It is a step toward ensuring that basic hygiene items, diapers and period supplies, are not treated as luxuries, but rather as the necessities they are. I urge you to pass this bill and make a meaningful difference in the lives of families in our state. Thank you for your consideration and support to end diaper need and period poverty in our state. James McSpadden Vice President, St. Louis Area Diaper Bank Board of Directors 23 Lawn Place St. Louis, MO 63110 jmcspadden12@gmail.com



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE STEENSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Julie.Steenson@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 6:23 AM

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While I would like to see a complete removal of sales tax from these items, I am in support of this Bill as a good first step.



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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		
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63133
EMAIL: msmith@stldiaperbank.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 3:40 PM

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I represent St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and the Missouri Coalition of Diaper Banks. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 483, which seeks to change the sales tax rates for personal care products in Missouri. This bill is an essential step toward making personal care products more affordable and accessible to all Missourians, especially those from low-income households who are often disproportionately impacted by the additional tax burden on everyday necessities. Personal care products, such as diapers and period supplies, are not luxuries but basic necessities that everyone needs to maintain hygiene and health. By changing these products sales tax rates, we are acknowledging the importance of these items in our daily lives and ensuring that all Missourians, regardless of their financial situation, have access to the resources they need to stay healthy and well-groomed. In addition, this measure could help stimulate local economies, as it would increase disposable income for many individuals and families, allowing them to invest in other essential needs. Exempting personal care products from sales tax aligns with the state's commitment to creating a fairer, more equitable tax system. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN J. MADDEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-393-0105	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION		TITLE: POLICY IMPACT STRATEGIST	
ADDRESS: 2300 MAIN STREET, STE. 304			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL: nmadden@healthforward.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 9:13 AM	

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Chair Stinnett and Members of the Committee: On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this written-only testimony in support of House Bill 483. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities. We support this legislation as it would benefit the health and wealth of the women and families purchasing these necessities. HB 483 which reduces the sales tax on certain items, including diapers, feminine hygiene products, and prenatal vitamins, is legislation that will help families afford these expensive – but necessary – products. According to a recent study, one in six women using feminine hygiene products has had difficulty affording these products at some point in the last year (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10706563/>). This legislation makes it more affordable for women to access these products and for families to keep more of their hard-earned money. In addition, HB 483 is extremely important for maternal and pre-natal health during a pregnancy. A meta-study demonstrates that greater access and utilization of pre-natal vitamins reduces birth defects of the fetus, as well as ensuring better pregnancy and health outcomes for the mother, including lower rates of gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, anemia, and other associated complications (<https://mhnpjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40748-022-00139-9>). Reducing the sales tax on these crucial vitamins helps to remove a small but pernicious barrier to maternal and fetal health. If we could suggest one thing, it would be to amend HB 483 to eliminate the sales tax on these products altogether. While we understand that the sales tax provides an important revenue stream to local and state government, this would be targeted relief for families earning a lower income and benefit them the most. Again, we urge the committee to vote YES on HB 483. It would have significant health and economic benefits and would make Missouri an even better place to raise a family. Please reach out to me at nmadden@healthforward.org if you have any questions or need additional information or resources. Respectfully, Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D. Policy Impact Strategist Health Forward Foundation



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: ST LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 8:57 AM	
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Support



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: HALEON; AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: sgh@molobby.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 9:24 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: 3/31/2025 7:22 PM
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Please advance this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 5:46 PM
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The feminine products part is good because people should not be taxed for necessary hygiene products. The part about diapers and prenatal vitamins is good for the same reason, but also better because young families who are having kids often struggle with the cost of raising children, and this will help relieve that burden a bit . . . should remove the sales tax altogether, but this will help until then.