



# Talking Points for Friends & Families

## **HB 2534: Seeks to Eliminate State Sales Tax on Feminine Hygiene Supplies and Diapers**

- Necessities such as food and medication are exempt from state sales tax, but feminine hygiene supplies and diapers are not even though they are necessary for physiological functions and hygiene practices. Each day, women and mothers are charged sales tax on these essential items that the state of Arizona deems a luxury, not a necessity.
- As of 2021, Arizona is one of the 30 states remaining with feminine hygiene taxes. WFSA is working to end state sales tax on feminine hygiene products, diapers, and incontinence supplies by introducing HB 2534 to the State Legislature.
- In total, menstruating people and users of incontinence supplies, such as diapers, pay about \$8 million dollars in state sales tax every year in our state. Unlike other personal supplies, these items are considered a luxury. But for the people who need feminine hygiene supplies, diapers and incontinence supplies, they know these items are a necessity.
- The lack of menstrual products is not only a health issue for women, but can often lead to the inability to attend school or work. This puts a strain on a woman's learning and earning potential. In fact, 1 in 5 low income females miss school or work due to a lack of period supplies, putting an additional economic and social stressor on them. Without the feminine hygiene supplies that menstruating people need in order to go to school or work, they revert to using unsanitary or makeshift options like fabrics, toilet paper, or using supplies for longer amounts of time than recommended. Menstruating people deserve to have access to hygiene supplies.
- The cost of diapers and incontinence supplies can create a financial strain on parents and individuals, including the elderly. Parents with children in daycare settings must provide a sufficient supply of diapers in order for their child to attend, which can lead to missed work days for parents and an inability for children to attend schooling. Incontinence supplies for adults can cost upwards of \$200 per month and are not covered by Medicare. Without these supplies, the risk of abuse and neglect for both of these vulnerable populations can increase.
- These supplies are not a luxury, they are a necessity!



# Talking Points for Friends & Families

## HB 2111: Reinvestment of General Funds to the Healthy Families Arizona Program

- Healthy Families Arizona is a volunteer-based home visiting program with decades of data and results that show a reduction in child abuse and neglect. High-risk families are referred to the program during prenatal care or after birth and can remain in the program up to age 5 of the child.
- The program has shown positive outcomes in reducing risk factors associated with abuse and neglect, and families who participate in this program are 50% less likely to have DCS remove their children from the home than families who do not participate. Families participating in the program see significant reductions in child abuse and neglect, and over the last three years, Healthy Families Arizona program participants have had no substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. Parents gain appropriate parenting skills which build the foundation for their child's safe and healthy upbringing, and children are more likely to be able to stay in their homes with their parents.
- 99% of the HFAz participants or "primary caregivers" are birth mothers, with 76% of the parents being single parents. The other 1% of parents are fathers, grandparents, or other relatives.
- Parents who volunteer to receive the program gain valuable parenting skills and see an increase in key healthy growth environment factors, such as improved home environment, increased parent/child interaction, improved parenting efficacy, and decreased depression. The program has a 70% retention rate.
- Parents are also connected with career and employment services. Over 20% of mothers gained employment while in the program, with a majority of them obtaining full time employment. (2018 report). In addition, over 20% completed additional education during the first year of their child's life.
- This is one of the only evidence-based programs that is proven to help prevent child abuse and neglect, and it has been underfunded for years. Funding from the State's General Budget (\$10M) will re-invest in this life-saving program to allow for expansion in FY 2023, increasing the capacity of the program by 1,500 for a full 5,500 families served by the end of the year, with a focus on expanding current program location and expanding into rural communities. (Gov. Budget)