**\*\*DO NOT SUBMIT THIS PAGE WITH YOUR LETTER\*\***

**How to Submit Position Letter**

**Create an account with** [**California Advocates**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**: The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.**

* Create an account [here](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/), if you do not already have one.
* Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
* Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.

**Create a letter of support: There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational letterhead, include a signature, and tailor as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!**

**Submit a letter of support: Once signed into the portal:**

* Select the “Submit a Letter” (top left corner).
* Enter the bill number (AB 636) and session type (Regular). Select “Search.”
* Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select “Next.”
* On the “Submit Letter as” page, either select or enter your organization.
* Ensure that **Assembly Committee** **on Appropriations** is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select “Next.”
* Upload your letter, select “Support” under “Stance,” and enter a subject line.
* You will be prompted to a final “Review Your Submission” page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
* Once you've done so, select “Submit.”

**You're done!**

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Date

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

1020 O Street, Suite 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 636 (Ortega) - Support for Diaper Need**

Dear Chair Wicks,

[INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] writes to express our support for Assembly Bill 636 (Ortega), which would establish diapers as a covered Medi-Cal benefit for a child greater than 3 years of age who has been diagnosed with a condition that contributes to incontinence and for an individual under 21 years of age if necessary to correct or ameliorate a condition pursuant to certain federal standards. This bill would build upon California’s commitment to make diapers accessible to children and families struggling to meet their basic needs.

[INSERT SENTENCE OR SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR YOUR REASONS FOR SUPPORTING AB 636]

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, almost 1 in 2 families in the United States reported not having enough diapers for their babies to stay clean without cutting back on other necessities. The decision for families to choose between putting their money towards paying rent and food or buying diapers for their child is a decision no caregiver should have to make. Yet, the reality is that many do, given that a monthly supply of diapers for *one child* costs between $80-$100 a month on average, and even more for families who live in rural areas or do not have access to transportation to find the cheapest stores.

The inability to afford diapers has painful consequences for an entire family. When diapers are kept on longer than suggested, babies can have painful conditions like Urinal Tract Infections or a severe diaper rash. Additionally, diaper need is linked with food insecurity, parental stress, and lost wages or time at school for caregivers. Daycares require parents to provide their own supply of diapers, so many cannot access childcare due to the inability to provide diapers. These difficulties impact every household member's physical and mental health and can push families deeper into poverty.

Children cannot control the fact that they use diapers, but California can control our state’s support to help families meet their basic needs. For these reasons, our organization is proud to support AB 636 (Ortega), and we respectfully ask for your support to ensure children have enough diapers to stay clean, dry, and healthy.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]