



**Testimony of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials on SB21-027
Emergency Supplies for Colorado Babies and Families
March 3, 2021**

Hello and thank you to the Chair and members of the Health and Human Services Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB21-027.

I'm Shannon Kolman, Policy and Programs Director with the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Official (CALPHO). I submit this testimony on behalf of CALPHO today.

CALPHO is the professional association representing the leadership and staff of Colorado's local public health agencies (LPHAs). CALPHO's mission is to support LPHAs and their vital, community-focused public health activities to protect and improve the health of people and their environments in Colorado.

CALPHO supports SB21-027 and supports amending the bill to add local public health agencies as possible entities to administer diaper distribution centers, in addition to one or more nonprofit organizations already included in the bill.

SB21-027 is particularly relevant given the economic struggles seen by many families across Colorado during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, far too many families have faced economic struggles before the pandemic, with one in three families reporting the need for more diapering essentials, and this need will exist well beyond the pandemic.

Local public health agencies (LPHAs) currently play a role in providing services and working with new moms through WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. SB21-027 will complement WIC by providing needed diapering essentials. Because some LPHAs already provide supplies, such as formula and breast pumps to new moms, an LPHA may be a logical site for a distribution center in some communities.

Please vote in favor of SB21-027 and in favor of amending SB21-027 to include LPHAs.
Thank you.