

Madame Chair and Members of the Public Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is Jade Woodard, Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado. Illuminate is a statewide nonprofit working to strengthen families, organizations, and communities to prevent child maltreatment. Illuminate serves as the Colorado Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. I am providing written testimony **on behalf of Illuminate Colorado in support of Senate Bill 21-27.**

Just as a vehicle can only bear so much weight before it stops moving forward, challenging life circumstances can overburden parents, making it hard for them to provide the best kinds of care and support. To prevent a breakdown in care, we can keep the heaviest loads from weighing families down and support them to continue on their journey.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 3 families reported needing more diapers. With increased unemployment and economic hardship due to the pandemic, this need likely continues to grow even higher. Ensuring families have access to diapers supports multiple Protective Factors, including access to concrete support in times of need and improved parental resilience.

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, it costs at least \$80 per month to diaper a child. SB21-27 is especially cost-effective as the diapering supplies would be purchased in bulk. While some families may have resources to drive to a warehouse club or supermarket to buy diapers in bulk, some families located in resource deserts may be limited to convenience stores where diapers come in smaller packages with a much higher average price per diaper. This bill will increase financial security of families as well as support access to child care as families are typically required to supply eight disposable diapers a day for their child to attend child care.

Parents report reusing disposable diapers and using plastic bags, towels, or toilet paper when they run out of money for diapers. These "alternatives" lead to painful rashes and health complications, potentially causing infants and toddlers to become more fussy and more likely to cry. Increased infant crying has been found to be associated with [increased rates of abusive head trauma](#), the leading cause of physical child abuse. An adequate supply of diapers is a tangible way of reducing parenting stress, a critical factor influencing child health and development.

Senate Bill 27 will support Colorado families' health and economic security. Please join Illuminate Colorado in our support by voting yes.

Sincerely,



Jade Woodard  
Executive Director  
[jwoodard@illuminatecolorado.org](mailto:jwoodard@illuminatecolorado.org)  
(303) 845-0193 cell