



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, diaper need is the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy; and

WHEREAS, national surveys and research studies report that one in three families struggles with diaper need and 48 percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend their supply; and

WHEREAS, purchasing enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy can consume 14 percent of a low-wage family's post-tax income, making it difficult to obtain a sufficient supply; and

WHEREAS, without enough diapers, babies and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention, and may prevent parents from attending work or school, thereby hurting the family's economic prospects and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the people of Virginia recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is proud to be home to the Virginia Diaper Bank Network comprised of: Capital Diaper Bank, Children's Clothes Closet at Mission Central, Childrens Diaper Bank, Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank, Little Hands Virginia, Northern Virginia Diaper Bank, Saint Bebe Outreach/Hope Baby Care, Shenandoah Lutheran Ministries/A Small Hand Diaper Bank, The Red Wagon Ministry Diaper Bank and William & Mary Diaper Bank that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability; and

WHEREAS, diaper banks, their staff, and volunteers continue to serve on the front lines of Virginia's COVID-19 pandemic response by helping families in our communities weather the crisis; and

WHEREAS, while experiencing greater increase in demand for diapers due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown, diaper banks across the Commonwealth are working diligently to increase diaper distributions and support children and families in need of immediate assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize September 21-27, 2020, as **DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth