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TESTIMONY RE: PROPOSED BILL NO. 756, AN ACT CONCERNING DIAPERS
FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY
Select Committee on Children Hearing

February 8, 2007

To: Senator Meyer, Representative McMahon and members of the Select Committee
on Children

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Proposed Bill No. 756, AN ACT CONCERNING DIAPERS FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. Our association provides several programs with early childhood care centers that include medication administration training and training for child health consultants who work with these centers.

Parents of children who live in poverty stretch their income for life's basic necessities but are often lacking money for some of the most fundamental essentials - like adequate diapers for their infants. Even with making it, we know that a minor crisis like a car that needs repairs or the co-payment of a medication can place parents and their children in poverty in positions where they must decide between two necessities.

Food stamps that are available for individuals who are unemployed, work only part-time or for low wages or receive public assistance cannot be used to purchase nonfood items - so are not available for diapers. Food banks sometimes have diapers but there is no consistency.

We support the concept of the Department of Social Services developing a program with agencies to provide diapers for children living in poverty, even if this is piloted initially. This would not only raise the consciousness of potential community members giving diapers to a program but will provide babies who have little, to have a basic necessity.

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Thank you for considering this bill.

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