

# The Impacts of Diaper Insecurity and Period Product Insecurity: Producing Evidence for the Future

## Speaker Biographies

### Opening

**Heather Sandstrom** is a senior fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. Her research focuses on early childhood development and public programs that support the well-being of low-income children and families, such as Head Start and Early Head Start, child care subsidies, and maternal and child home visiting. Her most recent projects have included diverse populations of families who are immigrants or have limited English proficiency. She has experience combining qualitative and quantitative methods and has managed several complex longitudinal studies. Before joining Urban, Sandstrom worked as an independent early childhood research consultant, serving organizations and institutions around the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, including Child Trends and the Maryland State Department of Education. In 2009, she was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant from the Institute of International Education to study the characteristics and quality of a publicly funded universal preschool program in Seville, Spain. Sandstrom has a PhD in human development with a certification in measurement, statistics, and evaluation from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Dr. Megan V. Smith** is a national leader in public health, maternal and child health, and mental health with specific interest and expertise related to families experiencing poverty. She is the current Chief of Innovation and Impact at the National Diaper Bank Network. Dr. Smith has broad knowledge and extensive experience in transforming systems to reduce health inequities for birthing people with a particular focus on economic inequities. She published the first peer-reviewed paper on diaper need with Joanne Goldblum in 2013. Most recently, Dr. Smith served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and in the Child Study Center in the Yale School of Medicine, and Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Yale School of Public Health and worked on Medicaid policy as Senior Director of Community Health Transformation at the Connecticut Hospital Association. Dr. Smith is the founder of the Mental Health Outreach for MotherS (MOMS) partnership, a nationally acclaimed approach to improving mental health among low wealth families. She is a member of the National Advisory Council for the March of Dimes where she co-chairs the March of Dimes Economic Mobility and Maternal Health Committee.

### Remarks

**Rosa DeLauro** is the Congresswoman from Connecticut's Third Congressional District, which stretches from the Long Island Sound and New Haven, to the Naugatuck Valley and Waterbury. Rosa serves as Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee and sits on the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and she is the Ranking Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, where she oversees our nation's investments in education, health, and employment.

## Fireside Chat

**Senator Tammy Duckworth** is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

**Myra Jones-Taylor** is senior vice president for impact and external affairs at the Urban Institute, overseeing communications, development, government affairs, and policy impact. With these teams, she sets the vision for how researchers and policy experts across Urban can maximize the impact of their findings and evidence-based recommendations while helping tell the story of how their work changes lives and strengthens communities. Before joining Urban, Jones-Taylor was the chief policy officer at ZERO TO THREE, where she led the development and implementation of the organization's policy agenda, priorities, and strategies while serving as the principal spokesperson on all policy matters. She previously served as Connecticut's founding commissioner of early childhood, leading the cabinet-level state agency that serves all children from birth to age 5 and is responsible for early care and education, home visiting, and early intervention and child care licensing. During her time as commissioner, the state agency was awarded \$50 million in new, competitive federal grants and expanded access to high-quality preschool to 25 percent more 3- and 4-year-olds. Jones-Taylor was a class of 2022 New America national fellow and has been both an Ascend fellow and a Pahara fellow of the Aspen Institute. She writes and speaks about racial identity, systemic racism, and social inequality and has appeared in *the Atlantic* and on the *Longest Shortest Time* podcast. Jones-Taylor received a joint doctorate in American studies and anthropology from Yale University.

## Presentation

**Dr. Kelley E. C. Massengale**, PhD, MPH, is the Director of Research and Statistics for the National Diaper Bank Network. She led the research team that published the first peer-reviewed research articles about diaper banks and the outcomes they facilitate for families and communities. Dr. Massengale has since led the evaluation of the Alliance for Period Supplies' nationwide network of period supply banks and an economic impact study to assess the economic benefit to communities with diaper banks via the National Diaper Bank Network's Study of Diaper Insecurity, Health, and Economic Mobility in the United States. Annually, Dr. Massengale contributes to The NDBN Diaper Check, a nationally representative study commissioned by NDBN to assess diaper insecurity in the United States. Her research centers on increasing access to material basic needs via policy and community-based approaches.

## Panel Discussion

**Andrea Luquetta** is a long-time advocate for economic justice and liberation, a community organizer, and an attorney admitted to practice in California. Andrea leads Pa'lante Collaborative Strategies, a consultancy service for advocates and policymakers who are building the economic and political power of historically exploited communities. Current and past clients include Destination: HOME Silicon Valley, California's HOPE for Children Trust Account Program, the Asset Funders Network, Liberation in a Generation, California Low Income Consumer Coalition, Lift to Rise, and the Legal Aid Association of California. Andrea received her JD from UCLA School of Law where she completed the Epstein Program

in Public Interest Law and Policy and the Critical Race Studies Program. Now a U.S. citizen, Andrea and her family were previously undocumented immigrants from Colombia who were granted legal residency through the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. She is a brown-skinned, queer, Latine mom who lives in Berkeley, California.

**David Radcliffe** grew up in a small factory town of the Appalachian foothills in western Pennsylvania. Today, he lives with his family in Connecticut. Professionally, David is the State and Local Policy Director for the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy. Previous work experiences include: policy director for the Office of Connecticut State Treasurer, where he championed implementation of the first-in-the-country “Baby Bonds” wealth building initiative; policy analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; and, grassroots community organizer. He has a strong passion for working with people to build places and economies where everyone can live happy, fulfilling, prosperous, and productive lives.

**Rebecca N. Robinson** is the Medical Office Chief of Staff and Director of Strategy for the TN Health Care Finance and Administration and Bureau of TennCare, the state’s Medicaid Agency. In this role, Rebecca coordinates and leads strategic clinical initiatives and policy development for the Medical Office. She supports the Chief Medical Officer and over 150 staff including TennCare’s medical, dental, pharmacy, and quality teams to lead priority initiatives. In previous roles at TennCare, Rebecca has provided oversight for payment reform and practice transformation initiatives across the agency, as well as the TennCare Kids (EPSDT) program. Prior to joining TennCare, Rebecca worked with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics where she developed and implemented a behavioral health training program and a statewide pediatric quality improvement program for primary care providers and residency programs. Rebecca holds a master’s degree in public health from the University of Tennessee. She currently serves on the NCQA Clinical Programs Committee.

**M. Teresa Ruiz** became the first Puerto Rican elected to the Senate in November 2007. Currently Senate Majority Leader, Senator Ruiz is the highest ranking Latina legislator in State history. She previously served as chair of the Senate Education Committee, and held the positions of Assistant Majority Leader from 2010-2017 and Senate President Pro Tempore from 2018-2021. She is vice chair of the Essex County Democratic Party and is deputy chief of staff to Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. She served as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. Throughout her time in the Senate, she has fought for equity in educational spaces, acting as the leading force in expanding access to early childhood education throughout the state. She also spearheaded the law to build on the federal free and reduced meal program so that all students who qualify for the program could receive breakfast and lunch at no cost, eliminating the reduced category. Furthermore she has sponsored laws to increase diversity within school curriculum and strengthen the Amistad Commission. The senator received a bachelor’s degree in English from Drew University. She was a 2010 Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow, and a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School’s Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. Among all of her accomplishments, the title she holds most dear is that of a mother.

**Dr. Megan V. Smith** is a national leader in public health, maternal and child health, and mental health with specific interest and expertise related to families experiencing poverty. She is the current Chief of Innovation and Impact at the National Diaper Bank Network. Dr. Smith has broad knowledge and extensive experience in transforming systems to reduce health inequities for birthing people with a particular focus on economic inequities. She published the first peer-reviewed paper on diaper need with Joanne Goldblum in 2013. Most recently, Dr. Smith served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and in the Child Study Center in the Yale School of Medicine, and Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Yale School of Public Health and worked on Medicaid policy as Senior Director

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