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May 18, 2022

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and our members, I write to urge your support for the Infant Formula Supplemental Appropriations Act 2022 (H.R. 7790) and the Access to Baby Formula Act (H.R.7791). H.R. 7790 would provide \$28 million in emergency funding to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address the urgent infant formula shortage and, importantly, to help prevent future shortages. H.R. 7791 provides federal agencies with flexibilities to help vulnerable families continue to purchase safe infant formula.

Proper nutrition during infancy and early childhood is essential to ensure the growth, health and development of children to their full potential. Many parents of babies and young children with medical challenges rely solely upon commercial infant formula to provide nutrition. Formula feeding provides flexibility to parents who work full time, particularly the [3.7 million full-time working mothers](#) who have children under 3 years of age. [About half of infant formula](#) sold nationwide is purchased with benefits provided under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which restricts the types of formulas that recipients can buy, further impacting underserved communities.

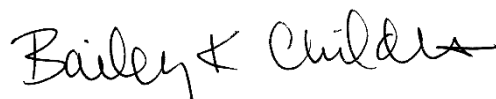
Union members like Lakasha Hines, who takes care of her 8-month-old niece Ava, are impacted by the infant shortage. In February and March, Ms. Hines found it impossible to find infant formula locally and when she did there was price gouging. She had to switch the infant to a generic-brand formula, which made the baby sick, but nothing else was available locally. She often travels for hours to get formula, but many of the parents of the children that AFSCME child care providers take care of do not have that option. Some do not have cars or are unable to drive for hours to track down formula. AFSCME child care providers who participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are required to provide formula, but they are finding it extremely challenging to locate available supplies.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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Parents and care providers across the country are searching in desperation to find formula. The infant formula crisis is real. AFSCME urges you to support immediate passage of both the Infant Formula Supplemental Appropriations Act 2022 and the Access to Baby Formula Act. We also support further congressional action to address the extreme consolidation of the infant formula market, which is placing working mothers and their young children at great risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bailey K. Childers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bailey K. Childers
Director of Federal Government Affairs

BKC:LB:hf