Chair Davids and Members of the Taxes Committee,

As a new mom, I am writing to express my strong support for House File 18, expanding sales tax exemptions on essential baby products.

Families across our state face significant financial burdens, and eliminating sales tax on necessities such as cribs, car seats, changing tables, and more, would provide much-needed relief. These items are incredibly expensive already, and exempting them from sales tax would add much-needed relief to families who are navigating the exciting – and expensive – journey of raising children.

I drafted an example cart of the products (see attachment) that this bill would exempt to show just how much the sales tax adds on to the total. To add insult to injury, families now must deal with a new delivery fee (which adds up quickly, especially when you are newly postpartum and rely on delivery services during recovery) and another 1% hike in the metro area. In St. Paul, the sales tax altogether is nearing a whopping 10%! For many families, the totality of these taxes is the equivalent of a package of diapers, infant formula, or even a winter snowsuit. That's a huge bite out of many budgets, especially as costs are continuing to increase for groceries, energy bills, you name it.

Raising a child comes with many expenses, and taxing basic necessities only adds to the strain on parents, particularly low-income families. By expanding exemptions, we can help ensure that all children have access to the essentials they need for a healthy start in life. Many states have already recognized the importance of this initiative, and I urge you to advocate for similar measures to support families in our state.

I appreciate your commitment to policies that benefit families and look forward to your leadership on this important issue.

RaeAnna K. Lee Woodbury, MN

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Attachment: Example Order with Sales Tax







