

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

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WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING  
COMMITTEE RECORDS

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on  
Public Health, Senior  
Issues, Long Term  
Care and Privacy

(SC-PHSILTCP)

(FORM UPDATED: 07/02/2010)

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

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➤ Public Hearings ... PH

\*\*

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY  
COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST  
PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt

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Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

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➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

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( )

FRED A. RISSER

President

Wisconsin State Senate

Senator Tim Carpenter  
306 South, State Capitol  
HAND DELIVERED

*Tim*  
Dear Senator Carpenter,

February 20, 2007



I am writing to request that the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Privacy hold a hearing on Senate Bill 30. This legislation would permit a mother to breast-feed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be. Senate Bill 30 was referred to the committee on February 9, 2007.

Under current law, there are various prohibitions against lewd behavior and sexual gratification in public. These prohibitions, however, do not apply to a mother breastfeeding her child. While state law does not classify breastfeeding as a "lewd behavior", many mothers statewide are the subject of harassment daily because they choose to nurse their child in a restaurant, coffee shop, or shopping mall.

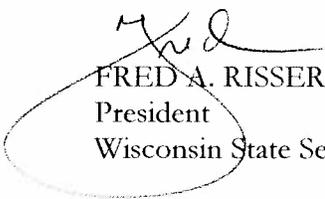
Senate Bill 30 would help to create greater public awareness of breastfeeding by allowing a mother to breastfeed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be. Additionally, this bill would prohibit any person from interfering with the right of a mother to breast feed her child. Any person who interferes with this right would be subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$200. Currently, 30 states have laws which allow mothers to breastfeed in any public or private place.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding of infants for six months, and continuation of breastfeeding after solid foods are introduced through age one. It is estimated that Americans would save \$3.6 Billion annually in health care costs because breastfed babies tend to be healthier babies.

Many mothers, faced with the fear of harassment for nursing in public, fall short of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation. Senate Bill 30 will not only target the discrimination faced by many nursing mothers, it will also address an important public health issue for Wisconsin babies.

I appreciate your consideration of my request for a public hearing on Senate Bill 30. If you should have any questions or concerns about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most sincerely,

  
FRED A. RISSER  
President  
Wisconsin State Senate

FAR:skb

P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1627 • E-Mail: Sen.Risser@legis.wi.gov • Fax: (608) 266-1629

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**DeLong, Russell**

**From:** Wilton, Jeanne [Jeanne.Wilton@wfhc.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2007 1:57 PM  
**To:** Sen.Carpenter  
**Cc:** Thomas, Jennifer MD  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 30 - The Right to Breastfeed Act

Dear Senator Carpenter,

On Tuesday, May 15, 2007 you will hear testimony regarding Senate Bill 30, the Right to Breastfeed Act, the companion bill to Assembly Bill 104.

I would encourage you to support passage of this bill out of committee, and ultimately into law.

As a women's health nurse practitioner and certified lactation consultant for over 30 years, I find it a shame that we have to pass a law so that women can breastfeed in a public place without being harassed, arrested or asked to leave that public place. But, in reality that is still the case in Wisconsin. Breastfeeding is the most natural and best thing a mother can do for her child. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all mothers breastfeed their children until optimally one year of age. Breastmilk is the optimal nutrition for newborns and protects them against infections including influenza and ear infections. Many workplaces have led the way by helping mothers who have gone back to work by providing pumping rooms and breaks for mothers who are breastfeeding, but we have a long way to go. New mothers still struggle with short maternity leaves and most companies have no idea that a mother would like to continue breastfeeding beyond six weeks after delivery.

The federal government has already led the way by providing pumping space at the nation's capital and passing legislation that no mother should be harassed for breastfeeding in a national park or on federal land. We should follow suit here in Wisconsin and support our own breastfeeding mothers likewise. As an expert in this field for over 30 years, having started the Prentice Breastfeeding Center in Chicago, Illinois in 1986, I can certainly provide the committee with any expert opinion. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Jeanne M. Wilton, RNC, MS, IBCLC, WHNP**

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare  
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05/15/2007





**TO:** Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care and Privacy

**FROM:** Kristine Casto, MPH *Kristine E. Casto*  
Learning Coordinator  
Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care (WAPC)

**DATE:** May 9, 2007

**RE:** Senate Bill 30

The Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care (WAPC) supports Senate Bill 30 that gives women the freedom to breastfeed, without interference, in any public or private place, where she would otherwise be allowed. This legislation is not just a step to allow freedom of action but also an important step toward improving the public's health.

This legislation would remove a substantial barrier to a woman's ability and motivation to consistently breastfeed her infant. A mother's thoughts while breastfeeding her baby should not be consumed with concern over being harassed, trying to breastfeed in as covert a manner as possible, or being asked to leave or "cover up" and relegated to a restroom or other less-than-desirable facility. Instead, a mother should have the opportunity to consistently breastfeed her infant.

The establishment of breastfeeding as a cultural norm, for at least the first year of life, is a fundamental cornerstone of promoting wellness in Wisconsin. Breastfeeding benefits mothers, infants, and society and should be encouraged. Just a few of the benefits of breastfeeding include:

- Optimized infant growth and development, including protection from acute and chronic diseases;
- Enhanced bonding and healthy infant emotional development;
- Quicker maternal recovery after childbirth, including a quicker return to pre-pregnancy weight;
- Possible protection from chronic diseases for the mother; and
- Affordability and lessened environmental impact (as compared to formula).

The *Healthy People 2010* breastfeeding objective sets the target percentage of mothers who breastfeed in the early postpartum period, at six months, and at one year at 75%, 50%, and 25%, respectively. Removing barriers to breastfeeding will further Wisconsin's efforts to achieve these goals.





AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of NURSE-MIDWIVES

With women. for a lifetime\*

15 May 2007

To: Chairman Senator Carpenter  
Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy  
From: Ingrid Andersson, CNM, MSN, on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the  
American College of Nurse Midwives.

Senator Carpenter and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 30. My name is Ingrid Andersson. I am licensed by the State of Wisconsin as a Registered Nurse and a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM). I am here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) to testify in support of Senate Bill 30.

The American College of Nurse Midwives supports public policy that promotes the health of mothers and infants in Wisconsin. Nurse midwives often have clients who are committed to breastfeeding their babies. Yet despite their commitment to being the best mothers they can be and following all health and medical recommendations for nurturing healthy children, many of our clients tell us stories of feeling shamed, shunned and isolated when they breastfeed their babies in public places. New mothers have told me stories of being asked to feed their baby in utility closets, in unhygienic public restrooms, or behind curtains, and even to leave a store or restaurant.

My clients know that breastfeeding does not qualify as public indecency in Wisconsin. They know they have legal protection, but they do not always feel legally *empowered* to exercise their right. When you add workplace challenges and normal parenting challenges to the cultural challenges of public discrimination, you may have the explanation for the fact that Wisconsin rates for breastfeeding lag behind national averages. Of the 36 states that have laws specifically allowing women to breastfeed in any public or private location, two-thirds of them have breastfeeding rates better than Wisconsin. Four-out-of-five states that have achieved the Healthy People 2010 objectives for breastfeeding rates possess public protection laws.

SB 30 can legally empower mothers in Wisconsin to breastfeed their babies by helping remove cultural barriers to breastfeeding. We have a long way to go before we reach the United States Healthy People 2010 goals for breastfeeding initiation (75%), breastfeeding at 6 months (50%), and breastfeeding at one year (25%). Passage of SB 30 would send a powerful message to the citizens of Wisconsin that you, our state leaders, prioritize the health and wellbeing of mothers and children.

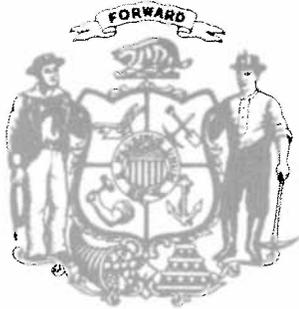
Sincerely,

Ingrid Andersson CNM, MSN  
for ACNM-WI



WISCONSIN  
STATE  
ASSEMBLY

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007



S H E L D O N  
WASSERMAN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Testimony of Representative Sheldon Wasserman  
For the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long  
Term Care and Privacy  
in Support of Senate Bill 30**

Chairman Carpenter and committee members, thank you for taking the time to hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 30, which would permit a mother to breastfeed her baby in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be.

As a Physician one of my primary concerns is the health and well-being of both mothers and babies. The evidence is overwhelming that the best nutrition a baby can get is from breastfeeding. Breastmilk contains anti-bacterial and anti-viral agents that protect the infant against disease, and offers natural immune boosters to keep the child healthy. Attached to this testimony is a sheet with more detailed information on the protective effects of breastfeeding. A study done by the USDA says that there could be an annual national savings of \$3.6 Billion in health care costs if the number of mothers that breastfeed increased by 10%.

Babies deserve the best nutrition they can get, anytime or anywhere they want it. Current Wisconsin law prohibits law enforcement from charging a breastfeeding mother with lewd or indecent behavior. Unfortunately this has not stopped people from harassing and trying to stop breastfeeding mothers. We need to protect women and their babies. SB 30 would allow a mother to breastfeed in any location that she has a right to be in and prohibits any person from interfering with the right to breastfeed her baby.

Many other states have already passed similar legislation. Mothers and babies in Wisconsin deserve the same protection. This is a simple bill that addresses a very real problem. Harassment of breastfeeding women must be stopped.

I would like to thank Senator Risser for taking the lead on this issue. It has been an honor to work with him. I look forward to working with all of you to pass a bill for which we can all be proud. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

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## Research on Established and Potential Protective Effects of Human Milk and Breastfeeding on Infants

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According to the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement, "Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk," the findings of extensive research suggest various benefits of breastfeeding as indicated in the following excerpt.

### *Infectious Diseases*

Research in developed and developing countries of the world, including middle-class populations in developed countries, provides strong evidence that human milk feeding decreases the incidence and/or severity of a wide range of infectious diseases including bacterial meningitis, bacteremia, diarrhea, respiratory tract infection, necrotizing enterocolitis, otitis media, urinary tract infection, and late-onset sepsis in preterm infants. In addition, postneonatal infant mortality rates in the United States are reduced by 21% in breastfed infants.

### *Other Health Outcomes*

Some studies suggest decreased rates of sudden infant death syndrome in the first year of life and reduction in incidence of insulin-dependent (type 1) and non-insulin-dependent (type 2) diabetes mellitus, lymphoma, leukemia, and Hodgkin disease, overweight and obesity, hypercholesterolemia, and asthma in older children and adults who were breastfed, compared with individuals who were not breastfed. Additional research in this area is warranted.

### *Neurodevelopment*

Breastfeeding has been associated with slightly enhanced performance on tests of cognitive development. Breastfeeding during a painful procedure such as a heel-stick for newborn screening provides analgesia to infants.

Breastfeeding and the use of human milk. AAP Policy Statement. American Academy of Pediatrics. Section on Breastfeeding. Pediatrics 2005;115:496-506.

(To review the full-text AAP document online with complete references, go to <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/115/2/496>.)



Tuesday 5.15.97

SB 30 MLF

Distinguished members of this Senate Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our support for Breastfeeding Protection Act (SB 30), here in the great state of Wisconsin.

<Prayer gesture: statue of Our Lady of Le Leche; The Blessed Virgin Mary breastfeeding her son, Jesus, the son of God.>

I am here as a Catholic, pro-life, homeschooling, breastfeeding mom. I am here representing many Christian pro-life, homeschooling, breastfeeding moms who came before me, and those who will come after me; including my own daughters and my future grandchildren.

The Breastfeeding Protection Act is necessary to protect the rights of breastfeeding mothers who happen to be in public when their children get hungry. I am grateful for the mothers who came before me; the breastfeeding moms who were expected to nurse their children on toilet seats, in dressing rooms, or go back to their vehicles when they ventured out with their nursing children. I am grateful for the nursing mothers in this room and for all those who have ventured out recently and refused to be intimidated into nursing in hiding. The Breastfeeding Protection Act, if passed, will make all mothers who feed their children in public equal: those who choose to bottle feed and those who choose to breastfeed.

I chose to breastfeed my four children because The Academy of Pediatrics and other esteemed health authorities recommended it, for at least the first year of my baby's life. Originally, it was the health benefits and the recommendations of "health authorities" that led me to choose breastfeeding over formula feeding, but even more importantly, I chose to breastfeed my children because my Christian faith encouraged me to embrace my vocation as a mother, a vocation that is increasingly denigrated in modern American culture, as the need for this legislation indicates. I am forever indebted to La Leche League, for giving me the information, support and encouragement that allowed me to successfully breastfeed my children; breastfeeding gave me the tools I needed in order to become the mother I've always wanted to be!

I began my nursing career in The Land of 10,000 lakes, a state that protects a woman's right to breastfeed in public. I was shocked by the harassment I received when I moved back to my home state of Wisconsin in the fall of 2001! I have had several harassment incidents; let me tell you about one of them. I was attending a children's birthday party with my oldest child and my newborn. The party was at a public pool—a family friendly place. I was nursing my baby and talking with the other parents at the party when a teenage life-guard approached me and told me that I needed to stop "doing that" because I was bothering

people. I was wearing a maternity-nursing shirt at the time. She was wearing a low-cut swim suit. Thank goodness I was all ready confident in my decision to breastfeed my baby, even in public, or she might have scared me into being homebound for my entire post-partum!

I have been around breastfeeding mothers for an entire decade. I have been actively involved in La Leche League groups, The Couple to Couple League-an NFP organization that promotes ecological breastfeeding, Sacred Heart Homeschoolers, a Catholic homeschooling group here in Madison where the average family size is 5 children...I have seen more women baring their breasts on the grocery store news stand than I have ever seen during the past ten years I've spent hanging out with breastfeeding mothers.

God's plan for motherhood is simple to figure out: a baby grows in a woman's uterus and right after she gives birth, milk flows into her breasts so that she can feed her child. God designed the breast as a feeding organ first and foremost. He did not objectify it as a pleasure-toy. We did. The pornification of our culture has lost touch with God's plan. The pornification of the female body has created the disordered view that a mother feeding her child at the breast is lewd and instills lust for those near by. Every nursing mother I have ever known dresses modestly and nurses modestly; someone would have to stare long and hard in order to figure out if a nursing mother was indeed nursing, or just holding a sleeping child. If, after staring for so long the onlooker is feeling lustful or disgusted, then s/he is certainly capable of looking away. I have to look away when I see parents in public who are making choices I would not make. My husband has to look away when a Victoria Secret ad assaults him visually, in order to be faithful with his eyes to me, in marriage. Looking away is an option for everyone.

I don't know any mother who sets out with her homeschool crew in tow, on a fieldtrip, or to attend a homeschool event with the sole intention of breastfeeding her nursing in public. Breastfeeding mothers are simply responding to the needs of their children. Why should they be harassed for meeting the needs of their children?

I have a friend who travels regularly to Guatemala. I asked her once, what the breastfeeding mothers do there. She told me that the mothers carry a mat on their back and when their children need to breastfeed, they put the mat down, wherever they are, right in the middle of the street, and nurse their children and often fall asleep on the spot. It's hard for me to believe that breastfeeding mothers in Guatemala have more rights to breastfeed in public than I do here in America's Dairyland. I hope that will soon change.

I would like to close by listing all of the Bible passages I've found so far that mention breastfeeding: 1Samuel 1: 22-24, Numbers 11:12, 2 Maccabees 7:27, Psalm22:9, Joel 2:16, Thessolonians 2:7 and my personal favorite: Isaiah 66: 10-13, which reads: "*Rejoice, with Jerusalem, and be glad for her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may suck and be satisfied with her consoling breasts; that you may drink deeply with delight from the abundance of her glory, For thus says the Lord: Behold, I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall suck, you shall be carried upon her hip, and dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.*"

If the word of God is full of breastfeeding passages, and if God allowed His only Son to be nursed at The Blessed Virgin Mary's breast....how could there be anything crude, rude, or indecent about breastfeeding any where?

Thank you for you time and attention.

Mary Laurel Fabian

B.S. Elementary Education, Creighton University 1988 Cum Laude  
M.Ed. School Counseling, Marquette University 1991  
La Leche League Member/Leader 1997-present  
Couple to Couple League NFP Teacher/Member 1998-present  
Homeschool Teacher Fall 2001 – present  
Wife to Andy Fabian 1992 - present  
Full Time Mother to Drew (age 10), Bridget (age 6), Molly (age 2) and John Paul (8 months)



My name is Karissa Anderson and I'm here to share my story of breastfeeding harassment.

When my second child was 3 weeks old I was shopping at a Madison Mall with my family. My baby was hungry, so I sat down on a bench in a common area of the mall and nursed him.

I had only been there a minute or two before I noticed a woman working at a nearby kiosk talking to a security guard. Then she came over to where I was sitting with my children and began telling me that I wasn't allowed to breastfeed there, and I would have to move to a location near the restroom. She told me mall policy prohibited breastfeeding ~~there, so angry and annoyed, it was clear to me that it was her own discomfort with my feeding that she represented, not my workplace.~~ I later confirmed this with the mall manager. I later found out

she was wrong about the policy, but that did not prevent her from continuing to harass me, getting louder and attracting attention from onlookers, scaring my 4yo. She finally warned me she had alerted security, and I looked up to see that the one security guard had come back with two more guards. They seemed unsure about what to do, but they circled around me, pointing and talking to each other.

I decided to leave that uncomfortable situation before it got worse. I felt terrible, and I had to explain to my young daughter why mommy was being treated that way for trying to take care of her baby brother.

I honestly felt I was treated like a common criminal for feeding my baby.

My story is one of many. After speaking with other moms who have similar stories, I know this is a real problem, and some women are even choosing to not breastfeed to avoid such harassment. If this does not change, there will be serious health consequences for WI children.

Karissa Andrews

SB30

Room 4115





State of Wisconsin

**Department of Health and Family Services**

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Kevin R. Hayden, Secretary

Date?

TO: Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy  
FROM: Kathryn Pederson, Breastfeeding Coordinator & Nutritionist, DHFS  
RE: Senate Bill 30

***“Nutrition is essential for growth and development, health, and well-being. Behaviors to promote health should start early in life with breastfeeding and continue through life with the development of healthful eating habits.” Healthy People 2010, National Health Plan***

Thank you Senator Carpenter and committee members for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Department of Health and Family Services in favor of Senate Bill 30.

DHFS is required by state statute (s.250.07) to develop a State Health Plan. The well being of mothers and children is an important health goal in the State Health Plan because it predicts the health of the next generation in Wisconsin. Breastfeeding is an important part of both the “Adequate and Appropriate Nutrition” and “Overweight, Obesity, and Lack of Physical Activity” health priorities of the State Health Plan, Healthiest Wisconsin 2010. Both the National and the State Health Plans state: “By 2010, 75% of mothers will breastfeed their babies in early postpartum period, 50% will be breastfeeding at 6 months, and 25% will be breastfeeding at one year.”

Breastfeeding data is available from two sources. The Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) represents the Wisconsin WIC population (a higher risk population) and the National Immunization Survey (which represents the population as a whole.) The 2005 PedNSS report indicates that 59.9% of infants were breastfed at birth and that 24.2% are breastfed at 6 months and 16.4% are breastfed at 12 months. (For the state population, these percentages are 69.5%, 37.1%, and 18.9% respectively – below the national average for all 3 indicators and well below the state and national health plan objectives.)

It is very well documented that breastfeeding has health benefits for both the mother and child. Research studies show that children who are not breastfed have higher rates of mortality, meningitis, some types of cancers, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections, ear infections, allergies, and obesity. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for six months but continue breastfeeding for at least the first year of a child’s life. Thus, breastfeeding is a national and state public health strategy for health promotion and disease prevention – it is not only a personal woman’s decision or a lifestyle choice.

Women know the benefits of breastfeeding. Research provided through a USDA contract with a national social marketing organization indicated that almost all women on the WIC Program are aware of breastfeeding benefits, but they want and need help in overcoming barriers. A major barrier for many women is feeling like they are committing a crime if they breastfeed their baby in public.

Senate Bill 30 deals with breastfeeding in a positive way and is a statement that Wisconsin recognizes and supports the importance of breastfeeding. This legislation will help to increase the incidence and duration of breastfeeding by helping change the social culture around it.

The responsibility for achieving the State Health Plan goal of promoting, supporting, and protecting breastfeeding rests not only on the Department of Health and Family Services, but with all public partners in Wisconsin. Currently, 38 states and Puerto Rico have laws on their books protecting the rights of women to breastfeed in public. All Wisconsin mothers should have the opportunity to breastfeed their infants, and all infants should have the opportunity to be breastfed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 30.



Date ?

**Christina Cummings Lemon, RD, MS, CD**  
**2519 Middleton Beach Road**  
**Middleton, WI 53562**  
**608-238-6715**

I am here today as a registered dietitian and a member of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association to voice my **support for Senate Bill 30**, relating to permitting a mother to breastfeed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be.

It is the position of the American Dietetic Association, a professional organization of 70,000 nutrition experts, that exclusive breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition and health protection for the first six months of life, and breastfeeding with complementary foods for at least twelve months is the ideal feeding pattern for infants. Breastfeeding is also a public health strategy for improving infant and child health survival, improving maternal morbidity, controlling health care costs, and conserving natural resources.

For all these reasons as well as the fact that nursing one's child is a natural, positive, bonding behavior; breastfeeding should be encouraged in our society. For decades, communities have been planned which encourage optimal travel by car. Finally, more emphasis is turning toward planning communities that encourage walking. Likewise, it's time for communities to plan in a way that encourages mothers to choose the healthiest alternative for feeding their infants — which is breastfeeding.





# Madison Breastfeeding Promotion Network

*Volunteers and Health professionals working to promote and support breastfeeding in the Madison area.*

Date?

Throughout the State of Wisconsin, breastfeeding women are being harassed while making the very best nutritional choice for their children. Not only is this bill about a women's right to breastfeed in public, it is a bill about a baby's right to eat whenever and wherever he/she needs to. In 2005 the CDC recommended that legislation ensuring "the right to breastfeed" is an appropriate intervention to increase the public acceptance of breastfeeding. I applaud Sen. Risser & Rep. Wasserman for bringing such legislation forward in our state.

The Madison Breastfeeding Promotion Network is a coalition with over 50 members who are focused on supporting breastfeeding promotion. I am here today representing those members (which include physicians, nurses, IBCLC's, and community members) and I ask you to enthusiastically support SB 30. The majority of our members either currently or previously have worked directly with women and families who make the important and best nutritional choice to breastfeed. We have all heard stories of harassment of breastfeeding mothers in public, and we have heard what a barrier to continued breastfeeding this harassment has been. It is our belief that this bill will provide a legal basis to protect a woman's right to feed her baby wherever she has a right to be.

Additionally, the passage of this bill will support the strong and ongoing efforts of breastfeeding promotion by the Department of Health and Family Services, local public health agencies, clinics and hospitals across the state. Virtually every health organization educates pregnant families that nursing a child for the first year of life is the recommended feeding method. Passing this bill will provide the mothers, who we are encouraging to nurse for at least a year, with another system of support. When mothers are asked to leave a public place, they must be able to say, the law protects my right to nurse my baby here.

Moreover, by supporting breastfeeding mothers through the passage of SB 30, we as a state benefit. The environmental and economic benefits of breastfeeding are substantial.

- Breastfeeding is better for our environment because there is less trash and plastic waste compared to that produced by formula cans and bottle supplies.
- The State of Wisconsin could save money via a reduction in healthcare cost; because breastfed babies have fewer illnesses, fewer clinic visits, and fewer hospitalizations.
- A growing body of evidence suggests that breastfed infants receive protection against childhood obesity, which is important for our state because Wisconsin is ranked 26<sup>th</sup> in overweight and obesity prevalence among all states.

As you have heard, the benefits that are encompassed in breastfeeding include; health, psycho-social, societal, environmental and economic arenas. The State of Wisconsin should do everything possible to support a women's choice to breastfeed her child.