



State Breastfeeding Legislation



Breastfeeding not only benefits babies and mothers through improved health and bonding, but also contributes to society at large through economic and environmental gains. Because of the many benefits of breastfeeding, national and state objectives have been set to increase its incidence and duration.

U.S. legislatures, which recognize the importance of breastfeeding, have enacted legislation to remove some of the barriers that can affect a woman's decision to begin to breastfeed or to continue to do so. The goal of all breastfeeding legislation is to encourage more women to choose breastfeeding and to prevent harassment. Thirty-four states have enacted some form of breastfeeding legislation over the past decade:¹

- Many states have enacted breastfeeding legislation by creating new laws that protect, clarify, and/or enforce a mother's right to breastfeed her child in various situations.

- Other states have amended various laws by adding language to existing laws that pertain to breastfeeding.
- A few states have passed Resolutions of the Legislature, encouraging the support of breastfeeding in general.

Many breastfeeding bills contain a preamble that provides information about the importance of breastfeeding for women and children and current recommendations regarding the duration of exclusive and nonexclusive breastfeeding.² Some states include this information directly in the actual law rather than only in the bill, so that the information can easily be seen by anyone looking at the law.³

Legislation focused on the areas outlined below can play an especially effective role in promoting breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding in Public

Most breastfeeding legislation in the United States today relates to a moth-

er's right to breastfeed in public. To date, 30 states have enacted some form of legislation attempting to clarify or enforce a woman's right to breastfeed in public.⁴

Legislation is most effective when it clearly specifies that women have the right to breastfeed in any public or private place where they have the right to be, even if there is exposure of the breast. Eighteen states have created or amended their laws to expressly give women the right to breastfeed in any place where they have the right to be,⁵ and eight states have provided that their laws apply even if there is exposure of the breast during or incidental to breastfeeding.⁶

Laws that merely exempt breastfeeding from criminal statutes,⁷ and that do not clearly specify that women have the right to breastfeed wherever they have the right to be, may not afford sufficient protection to breastfeeding mothers. For example, because these laws do not clarify that women have the right to breastfeed

when they frequent private businesses open to the public, they may not adequately prevent businesses from engaging in practices that hinder breastfeeding.

Restrictions or limitations on the right to breastfeed are not favored, as they defeat the purpose of legislation and can discourage women from breastfeeding. Restrictions may include requiring the breastfeeding mother to be discreet or modest,⁸ excepting the right to breastfeed in a private home or residence of another,⁹ limiting the right to breastfeed to only those places where both a mother and her child have a right to be,¹⁰ or defining the age of the breastfed baby or child.¹¹

Note that restrictions may be unlawful or unconstitutional if they contradict existing laws (e.g., the existing law that allows women to breastfeed on any federal property).¹² Most of the states that considered putting restrictions into their laws ultimately did not do so, and the states that did include restrictions are in the minority.¹³ One state that initially put a restriction into its law amended the law a year later to remove the restriction.¹⁴

Four states have enacted laws that not only clarify the right to breastfeed in public but clearly state that it is a discriminatory practice to stop a mother from breastfeeding.¹⁵ One city ordinance clarifies that it is segregation to tell a woman to breastfeed in a particular place.¹⁶

New York was one of the first states to exempt breastfeeding from its criminal statutes (1984).¹⁷ Apparently New York recognized that more was needed to protect breastfeeding mothers, and as a result it enacted a very strong law that created an enforceable right to breastfeed, leading the nation

with its approach. New York's law, which contains no restrictions, applies to mothers wherever they may go, in public or private settings. It applies even if there is exposure of the breast during or incidental to breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding legislation can help provide mothers with a remedy for violations. To date, three states provide for civil fines or penalties for violation of their laws,¹⁸ and one state provides for an award of reasonable attorneys' fees if a mother is forced to seek legal redress through the courts.¹⁹ The strongest law in the nation was enacted by New York in 1994.²⁰ New York placed its nursing-in-public law into its civil rights statutes, thus providing breastfeeding mothers in New York with the same rights and remedies as any other people whose civil rights are violated.

The trend in nursing-in-public legislation seems to be evolving, with these various approaches combined:

- Specifying that it is a discriminatory practice to stop a woman from breastfeeding in public, and that it is segregation to tell her to go to some other location to nurse her baby.
- Clarifying that women have a right to breastfeed in any place where they have the right to be, public or private, even if there is exposure of the breast.
- Eliminating any restrictions on the right to breastfeed, such as requiring the breastfeeding mother to be discreet or modest, excepting the right to breastfeed from a private home or residence of another, limiting the right to only those places where both a mother and her child have a right to be, or defining the age of the breastfed baby or child.

- Providing mothers with a remedy for violation of the law, from civil penalties and fines to an award of attorneys' fees.

Employment Issues

Experience has shown that legislation is still necessary to protect breastfeeding mothers from discrimination in the workplace. Because working environments or conditions may discourage mothers from continuing to breastfeed once they return to work, many women see no alternative to weaning their children or quitting their jobs. Women can have difficulty in obtaining relief from the courts because of several federal court opinions that do not find discrimination against breastfeeding mothers to be actionable.²¹

Initial employment legislation only encouraged employers to provide breastfeeding support, rather requiring support, as is the more recent trend.²² Encouragements included allowing businesses to advertise themselves as "mother-friendly"²³ or "infant-friendly"²⁴ if they set up lactation support that conformed to state guidelines.

To solve the problem of discrimination against breastfeeding mothers, 10 states have enacted legislation that either encourages employers to support breastfeeding mothers when they return to work, or requires the employers to take specific actions to provide this support.²⁵ On the federal level, a bill has been submitted but not yet enacted into law that would provide tax incentives for expending funds on lactation support.²⁶

Recognizing that encouragement alone may not be enough to provide employees with adequate support, six states have enacted laws that

require employers to accommodate breastfeeding mothers when they return to work, but only two of the six states make it clear that it is discrimination to treat a breastfeeding mother differently from any other employee.²⁷ Five states require employers to take specific actions in accommodating breastfeeding employees.²⁸ Four of those states require employers to provide mothers with sufficient break time to express breast milk on the job,²⁹ and all five require employers to also provide a private place that is not a bathroom stall to do so.³⁰ The most current law of one of those states also provides for a remedy in the form of a civil penalty for violation of its laws.³¹

The sixth state has taken a different approach to supporting breastfeeding employees by clarifying in its law that it is discrimination to not allow a mother to express or breastfeed on her breaks, or to treat her differently from any other employee because she is breastfeeding or wants to express milk on her breaks.³² Though this approach does not necessarily require employers to take any specific action, it prevents them from taking action against or discriminating against breastfeeding mothers. It also overrides the negative federal court decisions that found discrimination against breastfeeding mothers not to be actionable.

One state (Connecticut) has found that a combination of approaches provides mothers with the most comprehensive protection.³³ Its law clarifies that it is discrimination to not allow a breastfeeding mother to express milk or breastfeed on her regular breaks, and also requires employers to provide mothers with a private, sanitary place to express her milk on the job.



The trend in employment legislation seems to be evolving, with these various approaches combined:

- Specifying that it is a discriminatory practice to stop a woman from expressing milk or breastfeeding on her breaks, or to treat her differently from other employees because she is breastfeeding.
- Requiring employers to provide sufficient break time to express milk, and a private, sanitary place to do so.
- Providing mothers with a remedy for violation of the law, from civil penalties and fines to an award of attorneys' fees.

Jury Duty

Jury duty can present significant problems for the breastfeeding mother. The effect of a sudden separation can put the breastfeeding relationship between mother and infant at risk. Separation can also cause the mother to become ill if she is not able to breastfeed or to express milk regularly.

Several states have enacted laws exempting breastfeeding mothers from jury duty.³⁴ These laws are not at all similar in terms of their language, as they were crafted to fit in with the general jury duty laws already existing in each state.

Other states have not seen the need to enact specific legislation to exempt breastfeeding mothers, as their laws provide other avenues for protecting the breastfeeding mother and infant, such as excusing parents who are at home with a child under a certain age.³⁵

If a state were contemplating enacting legislation that would exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty, a first step would be to see if other exemptions already exist that would solve the problem. A second step would be to look at the language of states that have already enacted specific breastfeeding legislation, and to see which approach would be most consistent with the state's own existing jury duty laws.

Family Law Situations

In situations where parents separate or divorce, decisions on custody and visitation can negatively affect or even destroy the breastfeeding relationship, as well as the bond that the child has with the mother. Because breastfeeding is such an important health choice for both the baby and the mother, courts that support breastfeeding in family law situations can contribute greatly to a family's level of health. Inappropriate, abrupt, and lengthy separations from the breastfeeding mother can result in a child prematurely weaning, becoming ill, and suffering from a variety of psychological disorders.

These difficulties can be avoided if courts consider breastfeeding when they make custody and visitation decisions. There are many court decisions from around the United States that clarify the importance of breastfeeding and require courts to consider it as a factor in deciding custody and visitation issues in family law cases.³⁶ Two of these cases rule that it is not discrimination to consider breastfeeding in deciding these matters.³⁷

To date, only three states have addressed breastfeeding and family law by enacting legislation.³⁸ One of those states requires that whether a child is nursing be considered as a factor in determining the frequency, duration, and type of parenting time to be granted.³⁹ Another provides that an exception to its visitation guidelines is consideration of the lack of reasonable alternatives to the needs of a nursing child.⁴⁰ The third state requires courts to consider breastfeeding in deciding parental responsibility issues in divorce and separation cases.⁴¹

Thus, the trend in family law legislation seems to be evolving, with breastfeeding a factor to be considered in determining parenting time in divorce or separation cases.

Mothers in Prison

Mothers who are sent to prison can still be encouraged to breastfeed. Legislation, such as New York's law that allows mothers under certain circumstances to have their children with them for the first year of life, helps to ensure that their babies still receive the benefits of being breastfed.⁴²

Other methods of encouraging breastfeeding could be looked at in regards to state legislation that comes from federal case law. For instance, mothers in federal prison have the right to breastfeed their babies during regular visitation periods.⁴³ Also, breastfeeding can be considered as a factor in federal sentencing proceedings.⁴⁴

Education, Training, and Licensure

In order to promote breastfeeding, some states require hospitals and providers of care to women and families to offer the services of a lactation consultant and/or information on breastfeeding and its benefits to infant and mother.⁴⁵ Several state laws that administer maternal and child health programs require promotion of breastfeeding as well as availability of breastfeeding services and support.⁴⁶ Also, some public service and education campaigns produced by health departments include the promotion of breastfeeding.⁴⁷

The role of states may include licensing or registering lactation consultants, and setting forth requirements

for qualifications, as one state has done.⁴⁸ Additionally, states may require the education of health professionals to include specific breastfeeding content.

Milk Banks

There is currently no legislation regulating the use of donor human milk. Medicaid and insurance third-party payers can and do cover processing fees for circumstances in which donor human milk is prescribed.

International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes

Another issue that has arisen in the United States is the enactment of legislation to enforce the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes*. While the United States joined numerous other countries in signing the *Code*, only one state has attempted to enact legislation designed to enforce it.⁴⁹ Such laws would prohibit a manufacturer of infant formula from engaging in marketing activities that violate the *Code*. While there are no state laws at the present time pertaining to the *Code*, Massachusetts and New York have a provision in their perinatal guidelines that require a physician prescription or a request by the mother before a formula discharge bag can be distributed.

Breastfeeding Equipment and Supplies

Another method of supporting breastfeeding is to enact legislation that provides for the payment or reimbursement of breastfeeding equipment

and supplies essential for successfully maintaining lactation, such as breast pumps and shields. This could be done through maternal and child health programs (such as WIC programs) and through requirements for third-party payers to cover such items, as well as the services of a lactation consultant. State health insurance codes can be modified to facilitate third-party reimbursement for breastfeeding care and services.

Breastfeeding equipment and supplies can be treated as medical supplies and thus be made exempt from sales tax, as has been done in one state.⁵⁰

Conclusion

For states wishing to offer the greatest possible support of breastfeeding, the United States Breastfeeding Committee recommends enacting or amending laws as suggested in this paper. Though each state will need to consider its specific situation, all efforts will assist the United States in attaining its goals for breastfeeding incidence and duration, and for the optimal health of infants, children, and mothers.

Endnotes

1. See chart entitled "State by State Listing of Enacted Breastfeeding Legislation As of 1/29/03"; see also "A Current Summary of Breastfeeding Legislation in the U.S." at www.lalecheleague.org/LawBills.html.
2. AK, DE, FL, MT, NH, NJ, NY.
3. LA, NV.
4. AK, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, IA, LA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OR, RI, SD, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI.
5. CA, FL, HI, IA, LA, ME, MN, MO, MT, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OR, TX, UT, VT.
6. FL, MI, MN, MT, NV, NY, NC, UT.
7. AK, IL, MI, RI, SD, VA, WA, WI.
8. MO.
9. CA.
10. CA, GA, MN, VT.
11. Colorado attempted to pass such legislation but it failed; Massachusetts has a pending bill with this restriction, 2001 Bill Tracking MA H.B. 4401.
12. Right to Breastfeed Act (H.R. 1848).
13. CA, GA, MN, MO, VT.
14. GA.
15. CT, LA, HI, NH.
16. PA City of Philadelphia City Ordinance 9-1105.
17. NY CLS § 245.012 245.02.
18. CT, HI, NJ.
19. HI.
20. 1994 NY ALS 98, NY CLS Civ R § 79-e.
21. *Fortier v. Steel Group*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11788; *Martinez v. N.B.C. Inc.*, 49 F. Supp. 2d 305 (1999); *Bond v. Sterling*, 997 F. Supp. 306 (1998); *Wallace v. Pyro Mining*, 789 F. Supp. 867 (1990); *Pendrix-Wang v. Director, Employment Security Department*, 42 Ark. App. 218 (1993); *Barrash v. Bowen*, 846 F.2d 927 (1988).
22. GA, FL, TX, WA.
23. TX.
24. WA.
25. CA, CT, FL, HI, GA, IL, MN, TN, TX, WA.
26. Breastfeeding Promotion and Employers' Tax Incentive Act (H.R. 1163).
27. CT, HI.
28. CA, CT, IL, MN, TN.
29. CA, IL, MN, TN.
30. CA, CT, IL, MN, TN.
31. CA.
32. HI.
33. CT.
34. CA, OR, IA, ID.
35. For example, several states exempt parents at home with children under a certain age. OCGA § 15-12-1, 2002; Fla Stat §40.013, 2002; 705 ILCS 305/10.2, 2002; Mass Ann Laws ch. 234 § 1, 2002; SC Code Ann 14-7-860, 2002.
36. For example, see *Faber v. Faber*, 159 A.D.2d 676 (1990); *Presutti v. Presutti*, 1990 Ohio App. LEXIS 3987; *Ford v. Ford*, 108 Idaho 443 (1985); *In re: The Marriage of Norton and Norton*, 640 P.2d 254 (Col. Ct. App. 1981); *Lester v. Lennane*, 84 Cal. App. 4th 536 (Ca Ct. App. 2000); *Kerstetter v. Kerstetter*, 1993 West Law 98040 (Ohio App. 4 Dist); *Goose v. Goose*, 406 NW 2d 4 (Minn.).
37. *Lester*, 84 Cal. App. 4th 536; *In re: The Marriage of Norton and Norton*, 640 P.2d 254.
38. ME, MI, UT.
39. MI.
40. UT.
41. ME.
42. NY CLS Correc § 611, 2001.
43. *Barrios v. Richard Thornberg, etc., et al.*, 716 F. Supp. 987 (1989).
44. *U.S. v. Dyce*, 320 U.S. App. D.C. 1; 91 F.3d 1462 (1996).
45. CA, FL, MO.
46. FL, IL, MT.
47. CA, IL, MN.
48. LA.
49. Cal Assembly Bill 2447, 2001 CA AB 2447.
50. MD.

State by State Listing of Enacted Breastfeeding Legislation as of 1/29/03

Alaska

Ak SB 297, 1998 AK ALS 78, Ak Stat §01.10.060, §29.25.080 (Nursing in Public)

California

Cal AB 977, 1995 Cal ALS 463, Cal Health & Saf Code §123360 and §123365 (Information Campaign, Health Program)

Cal AB 157, 1997 Cal ALS 59, Stats 1997 Ch 59, Cal Civ Code §43.3; (Nursing in Public)

Cal Assembly Concurrent Resolution 155, 1998 (Employment)

Cal AB 1814, 2000 Cal ALS 266, Stats 2000 Ch 266, Cal Code Civ Proc §210.5 (Jury Duty)

Cal AB 1025, 2001 Cal ALS 821, Stats 2001 Ch 821, Cal Lab. Code §1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 2001 (Employment)

Connecticut

Ct SB 260, 1997 Ct ALS 210, Conn Gen Stat §46a-64, and §53-34b (Nursing in Public)

Ct HB 5656, 2001 Ct ALS 182 (Employment)

Delaware

Del HB 31, 1997 Del ALS 10, 71 Del Laws 10, 31 Del C. §310 (Nursing in Public)

Florida

Fl HB 231, 1993 Fl ALS 4, 1993 Fla Laws ch. 4, Stat. §383.015, §800.02–800.04, §847.001 (later 827.071) (Nursing in Public)

Fl SB 1668, 1994 Fl ALS 217, 1994 Fla Laws Ch 217, Stat §363.318, §383.015, §383.016, §383.311, §383.318 (Employment, Health Program)

Georgia

Ga SB 29, 1999 Ga ALS 304, 1999 Ga Laws 304, (Nursing in Public) (Later amended by Ga SB 221, 2001, OCGA §31-1-9)

OCGA §34-1-6 (Employment)

Hawaii

Hi HB 2280, 1990 Hi ALS 326 (WIC)

Hi HB 2774, 1999, HRS §489-21, HRS 489-22, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

Hi HB 266, 1999 Hi ALS 172, HRS 378-10.2, 2002, HRS §378-2, 2002 (Employment)

Idaho

Ida SB 1468, 1996 Ida. ALS 189, 1996 Ida Ch189, Ida Code §2-212, 2002 (Jury Duty)

Illinois

Ill SB 190, 1995 Ill ALS 59, 1995 Ill Laws 59, 720 ILCS 5/11-9, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

Ill SB 404, 1997 Ill ALS 244, 1997 Ill Laws 244, 20 ILCS 2310/2310-442, 2002 (Information Campaigns)

Ill SB 619, 1997 Ill ALS 290, 1997 Ill Laws 290 (WIC)

Ill SB 542, 2001 Ill ALS 68, 2001 Ill Laws 68 (Employment)

Iowa

Ia HF 2350, 1994 Ia ALS 1196, 1994 Ia Ch 1196, 1994 Ia LAWS 1196, Ia Code §607A.5, 2002 (Jury Duty)

Ia SF 2302, 2000 Ia. ALS 1140, 2000 Ia. Ch 1140, 2000 Ia. LAWS 1140, Iowa Code §135.30A, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

Louisiana

La HB 377, 2001 La. ALS 576, 2001 La. ACT 576. 777, La RS 51:2247.1, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

La RS 40:2213, 2002 (Consultant qualifications)

Maine

Me SP 888, 1999 Me ALS 702, 1999 Me Laws 702, 1999 Me Ch 702, 19-A MRS §1653, 2001 (Family Law)

Me HP 1039, 2001 Me ALS 206, 2001 Me Laws 206, 2001 Me Ch. 206, 5 MRS §4634, 2001 (Nursing in Public)

Maryland

Md SB 252, 2001 Md. ALS 137, 2001 Md. Chap 137, Md Code Ann §11-211, 2002 (Tax exemption)

Michigan

Mi SB 107-109, 1994 Mi ALS 313-315, 1994 Mi P.A. 313-315, MCLS §41.181, §67.1, 17.4i, §117.5h (Nursing in Public)

Michigan Complied Laws § 25.312(7a) Ch 722, Children, Child Custody Act of 1970

MCLS §722.27a (Family Law)

Minnesota

Minn SF 2621, 1990 Minn ALS 568, 1990 Minn Ch Law 568, Minn Stat §145.894, 2002 (Information Campaign)

Minn SF 2751, 1998 Minn ALS 369, 1998 Minn Ch Law 369, Minn Stat. §181.939, 617.23 (Employment)

Minn SF 3346, 1998 Minn ALS 407, 1998 Minn Ch Law 407, Minn Stat. §145.905 (Nursing in Public)

Missouri

Mo SB 8, 1999, R.S.Mo §191.915, §191.918 (Health Program, Nursing in Public)

Montana

Mt SB 398, 1999 Mt ALS 299, 1999 Mt Laws 299, 1999 Mt Ch. 299, Mont Code Anno. §50-19-501(Nursing in Public)

Mt HJR 3, 1991 (WIC)

Nevada

Nev SB 317, 1995 Nev ALS 105, 1995 Nev Stat 105, 1995 Nev Ch 105, Nev Rev Stat Ann. §201.210, § 201.220, §201.232 (Nursing in Public)

Nev SB 416, 1995 Nev ALS 443, 1995 Nev Stat 443 (Nursing in Public)

New Hampshire

NH HB 441, 1999, 10 RSA 132:10-d (Nursing in Public)

New Jersey

NJ SN 1212, 1997 NJ ALS 101, 1997 NJ Laws 101, 1997 NJ Ch 101, NJ Stat. §26:4B-4 (Nursing in Public)

New Mexico

NM SB 545, 1999 NM ALS 117, 1999 NM Laws 117, 1999 NM Ch 117, NM Stat Ann §28-20-1 (Nursing in Public)

New York

NY SN 3999, 1994 NY ALS 98, 1994 NY LAWS 98, NY CLS Civ R §79-e (Nursing in Public)

NY CLS §245.01, 245.02, 1984 (Nursing in Public)

NY CLS Correc §611 2001, Correction Law (Nursing in Prison)

North Carolina

NC HB 1143, 1993 NC ALS 301, 1993 NC Sess. Laws 301, 1993 NC Ch. 301, Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-190.9, 1993 (Nursing in Public)

Oregon

Ore SB 744, 1999, Ore ALS 306, 1999 Ore Laws 306, ORS §109.001 (Nursing in Public)

Ore SB 1304, 1999 Ore ALS 1085, 1999 Ore Laws 1085, ORS §10.050 (Jury Duty)

Pennsylvania: City of Philadelphia Only

Pennsylvania: City of Philadelphia City Ordinance 9-1105, 1997

Rhode Island

RI SB 2319, 1997, RI Gen Laws §11-45-1 (Nursing in Public)

South Dakota

SD SB 184, 2002 SD ALS 109, 2002 SD Ch 109, SD Cod Laws §22-22-24.1, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

Tennessee

Tn SB 1856, 1999 Tn ALS 161, 1999 Tn Pub Acts 161, Tenn Code Ann §50-1-305 (Employment)

Texas

Tex HB 359 & 340, 1995 Tex ALS 599-600, 1995 Tex Gen Laws 599-600, 1995 Tex Ch 599-600, Code §165.001 – 165.005, 165.031 – 165.034 (Nursing in Public, Employment)

Utah

Ut HB 262, Ut Code Ann §10-8-41, §10-8-50, §17-15-25, §76-9-702, §76-10-1229.5 (Nursing in Public)

Ut SB 33, 1997 Ut ALS 80, 1997 Utah Laws 80, 1997 Ut Ch. 80, Utah Code Ann §30-3-34 (Family Law)

Vermont

Vt SB 156, 2002 Vt ALS 117, 2002 Vt Laws 117, 2002 Vt Act 117, 9 VSA §4502, 2002 (Nursing in Public)

Virginia

Va HB 1188, 1994 Va ALS 398, 1994 Va Acts 398, 1994 Va Ch. 398, Va Code Ann §18.2-387 (Nursing in Public)

Va H J R 248, 1994 (Supplies for Medicaid)

Washington

Wa HB 1590, 2001 Wa ALS 88, 2001 Wa Ch. 88, RCW 43.70.640, 9A.88.010 (Nursing in Public, Employment)

Wisconsin

Wis AB 154, 1995 Wis ALS 165, 1995 Wis Act 165, 1995 Wis Laws 165, Wis Stat. §944.17, § 944.20, §948.10 (Nursing in Public)

Goals of the United States Breastfeeding Committee

protecting | promoting | supporting

The mission of the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) is to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding in the United States. The USBC exists to ensure the rightful place of breastfeeding in society.

The USBC works to achieve the following goals:

Goal I

Ensure access to comprehensive, current, and culturally appropriate lactation care and services for all women, children, and families.

Goal II

Ensure that breastfeeding is recognized as the normal and preferred method of feeding infants and young children.

Goal III

Ensure that all federal, state, and local laws relating to child welfare and family law recognize and support the importance and practice of breastfeeding.

Goal IV

Increase protection, promotion, and support for breastfeeding mothers in the work force.

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