



United States Breastfeeding
COMMITTEE

PROMOTING • SUPPORTING • PROTECTING

**When Working Mothers Breast-Feed
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To the Editor:

“On the Job, Nursing Mothers Are Finding a 2-Class System” (front page, Sept. 1) highlights the unequal treatment of breastfeeding mothers in the workplace.

With no national legislative policies in support of paid maternity leave and no recognized right to breaks for nursing or expressing milk on the job, women in the United States face big obstacles to following current national recommendations for feeding their babies.

A goal of the United States Breastfeeding Committee is that “every woman, regardless of her employment status, will have the opportunity to breastfeed and/or provide breast milk for her child.”

Legislators and business leaders must help extend this opportunity to women on all rungs of the employment ladder.

Employers benefit when their employees breastfeed. Aetna, for one, reported a return on investment of \$2.18 for every \$1.00 spent supporting lactating workers.

This is a win-win-win scenario for employer, employee and the country.

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