

As Reported by the House Health and Aging Committee

130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014

S. C. R. No. 37

Senator Tavares

Cosponsors: Senators Cafaro, Brown, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Coley, Eklund, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Jordan, Kearney, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Skindell, Turner, Uecker, Widener Representatives Bishoff, Hagan, R.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage hospitals and freestanding birthing 1
centers to adopt policies and procedures that 2
promote breastfeeding. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Breastfeeding is an important part of preventative 4
health care for both infants and mothers. Scientific studies 5
demonstrate that breast milk helps protect infants from infections 6
and allergies and provides the nutrients necessary for optimum 7
growth and development. Infants who are breastfed for at least six 8
months may be less likely to become overweight or obese during 9
later phases of childhood or as adults. Women who breastfeed their 10
infants have decreased risks of breast and ovarian cancer, anemia, 11
and osteoporosis; and 12

WHEREAS, Despite the benefits of breastfeeding, the United 13
States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 14
that only 13.6 per cent of babies in the United States are 15
exclusively breastfed at six months of age; and 16

WHEREAS, The CDC's Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care, a national survey of maternity care practices and procedures, found that barriers to breastfeeding are widespread in hospitals and birthing facilities. The CDC also found that 96 per cent of hospitals and birthing facilities lack maternity care policies and practices that fully support breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, A review by the United States Preventive Services Task Force determined that education on breastfeeding is an effective intervention for increasing breastfeeding rates; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to adopt policies and procedures that promote breastfeeding, including, but not limited to, (1) being designated a "Baby Friendly Hospital" by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, (2) developing breastfeeding education for women, including education on the health benefits of breastfeeding, (3) providing breastfeeding education and training for health care professionals who provide maternal and child care, (4) providing new mothers with access to lactation consultants, and (5) providing information on alternatives to breastfeeding for mothers who cannot or choose not to breastfeed or for mothers for whom breastfeeding is contraindicated; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in acknowledging the importance of breastfeeding, recognize the right of a mother to choose the method she will use to feed her infant. Therefore, we encourage hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to do all of the following: (1) provide pregnant patients with complete information, written materials, and support on available infant feeding methods, (2) support the feeding method a new mother

chooses for her infant, (3) provide health care providers and new 49
mothers with access to infant feeding educational information and 50
infant feeding materials regarding various methods for feeding 51
infants, including breast pumps, infant feeding supplies, infant 52
formula samples, and preparation instructions, and (4) distribute 53
infant formula samples and infant feeding supplies to a 54
breastfeeding mother on request of the mother or when ordered by 55
the mother's physician; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 57
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of Ohio. 58