

May 13, 2024

House Judiciary Committee

Room: Anderson House Office Building 124 N Capitol Ave. Room 521, Lansing, MI 48933

Re: BHSJ Health Agency Supports SB 351

Dear Chairperson Green, Majority Vice Chairperson Edwards, Minority Vice Chairperson Fink, and members of the Michigan House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

On behalf of the BHSJ Health Agency, I urge you to support SB 351 which would expand upon Michigan's Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act to include protections for pumping (i.e. expressing human milk) in public spaces. Parents who must be away from their child(ren) for prolonged periods of time - for example, while they are going to school or elsewhere - need and deserve additional protection and support to nourish their children. Health experts, including the World Health Organization, recommend that parents exclusively breastfeed their infants for 6 months, and then continue breastfeeding through 2 years old or longer. Yet, according to MDHHS' 2023 breastfeeding report, we see that nearly 75% of infants have ever been breastfed; more so, as time goes on, the duration of breastfeeding notably declines - especially between two and six months of age, with rates dropping from 59% to 30%. This is absolutely unacceptable because human milk is the foundation of health and providing human milk to Michigan babies must be made easier and more accessible for Michigan families. One way to do so is protecting public milk expression. 90% of families who breastfeed must feed their child expressed milk for one reason or another. As such, we urge you to vote yes on SB 351 and support Michigan families by establishing anti-discrimination protections for public pumping of human milk.

Thank you,

Morgan McCurry, Breastfeeding Counselor, Doula