

To whom it may concern,

As maternal health advocates, BirthSafe is thrilled to see SB 1006 come to the House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee. This bill is a great step towards creating a more equitable State for all Michiganders. Stronger and better maternal health outcomes start with nutrition. By allowing our residents with felonies a chance to support themselves and their families with SNAP assistance, we create greater chances for positive birth outcomes in Michigan.

It is well documented that inadequate nutrition is a key factor in infant mortality. The four leading causes of infant mortality in the United States are birth defects, low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and maternal complications during pregnancy, including preeclampsia, anemia, infection, or inflammation. Solid evidence exists linking poor maternal nutrition to birth defects, low birth weight, and maternal complications*.

Household food insecurity is associated with a reduced volume of breast milk intake with infants, and it is more likely that families with food insecurity to cease exclusive breastfeeding between four and 6 months**. Breastfeeding is associated with SIDS reduction and reduced rates of postneonatal death*.

By allowing our birthing population pathways to nutritional sustainability, we are building stronger birth outcomes for our State. We are investing in the next generation's health and wellbeing. This is a vital step we can make to create a safer state of maternal health in Michigan. We applaud the work done here and will be following with great interest,

Catherine Hadley
Owner and Operator
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* <https://asphn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-Roll-of-Nutrition-in-Infant-Mortality-A-Public-Health-Perspective-ASPHN-Brief.pdf>

** <https://internationalbreastfeedingjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13006-020-00276-x#:~:text=Yet%2C%20greater%20household%20food%20insecurity,and%206%20months%20%5B19%5D.>