

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0005

Breastfeeding resolution.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Meuli, Gilmore and Warren

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing breastfeeding's value to the
2 state and its citizens.

3

4 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy
5 statement in 1997 saying, "Extensive research, especially
6 in recent years, documents diverse and compelling
7 advantages to infants, mothers, families, and society from
8 breastfeeding and the use of human milk for infant feeding.
9 These include health, nutritional, immunological,
10 developmental, psychological, social, economic, and
11 environmental benefits"; and

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13 WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides significant health benefits
14 to the mother as well. Breastfeeding provides maternal
15 protection from breast cancer, osteoporosis, urinary tract
16 infections and other cancers. A survey of previous research

1 indicates the incidence of breast cancer in the United
2 States and other developed countries would be reduced by
3 forty-two percent (42%) by longer duration of
4 breastfeeding; and

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6 WHEREAS, many new mothers choose to use formula or other
7 artificial food rather than to breastfeed even before they
8 leave the hospital, and only a small percentage of all
9 mothers are still breastfeeding when their babies are six
10 (6) months old; and

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12 WHEREAS, studies now show that babies who are not breastfed
13 have higher rates of death, meningitis, childhood leukemia
14 and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses,
15 bacterial and viral infections, diarrheal diseases, otitis
16 media, allergies, obesity and developmental delays.
17 Breastfeeding may raise an infant's intelligence quotient;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, the social constraints of modern society weigh
21 against the choice of breastfeeding and lead new mothers
22 with demanding time schedules and uninformed employers to
23 opt for formula feeding; and

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1 WHEREAS, any genuine promotion of family values should
2 encourage public acceptance of this most basic act of
3 nurture between a mother and her child and no mother should
4 be made to feel incriminated or embarrassed for
5 breastfeeding her child.

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7 *Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Members of the*
8 *Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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10 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature
11 recognizes that breastfeeding is an important and basic act
12 of nurture which should be encouraged in the interests of
13 maternal and child health.

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15 **Section 2.** That the Legislature encourages
16 breastfeeding in all situations and congratulates
17 employers, both in the public and the private sector, who
18 accommodate breastfeeding mothers.

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20 **Section 3.** That the Legislature supports the right of
21 a woman to breastfeed in any location where she has the
22 right to be with her child.

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1 **Section 4.** That the Legislature strongly encourages
2 any state agency that administers programs providing
3 maternal or child health services to provide information
4 that encourages breastfeeding to program participants who
5 are pregnant women or mothers with infants.

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(END)