

HELP FAMILIES STAY HEALTHY WHILE ON THE GO

Support the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act



No matter what they're doing or where they are, **breastfeeding mothers need to express milk every few hours**. As of 2018, all 50 states have enacted laws to protect a woman's right to breastfeed in any place, public or private, as long as she's authorized to be there. However, there are many environments where women face challenges trying to find a clean and private space to nurse or pump. Few public buildings have designated lactation spaces, and many moms end up in restrooms or on floors. **Mothers should not have to compromise their milk supply simply because they cannot access a clean and private space to breastfeed or pump.**

Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act (H.R. 866/S. 528)

The **Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act**, passed in February by voice vote in the House, would require that certain public buildings that contain a public restroom provide a lactation room, other than a bathroom, that is hygienic and available for use by a member of the public. A covered public building may be excluded from the requirement if the building does not contain a lactation room for employees who work in the building and does not have a room that could be repurposed as a lactation space at a reasonable cost; or if new construction would be required and the cost is unfeasible.

The bill has been introduced in the Senate with bipartisan support and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. A U.S. Government Publishing Office Report on an identical bill in the previous Congressional Session found that enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Demonstrated Effectiveness & Support

Under current practice, federal agencies provide a designated, non-bathroom space for returning employees to pump breast milk during the work day. The Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act extends this requirement to include not just employees, but visitors to federal facilities. In Washington, D.C. alone, there are millions of tourists who visit federal facilities. There are also visitors to federal agencies for meetings and events that would benefit from the bill's provisions. Families who exclusively pump, chest feed, use a supplemental nutrition system (SNS), or simply prefer a private space would have access to accommodations while utilizing federal facilities.

In addition, current federal law requires employers to provide nursing mothers who are nonexempt employees a private, non-bathroom location to express breast milk for one year after their child's birth. Breastfeeding employees working in jobs that require travel (police officers, bus drivers, home health care workers, etc.) face some of the most challenging barriers to combining breastfeeding and employment. These employees frequently struggle to secure a clean, private space to pump during the work day. The provision of lactation spaces in federal facilities would remove this barrier for many employees, and provide a ready solution to help employers remain in compliance with federal and state laws requiring workplace accommodations for breastfeeding employees.

Please co-sponsor the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act and mobilize your colleagues to help keep our Nation's families and communities healthy.

U.S. Breastfeeding Committee • www.USBreastfeeding.org

