



June 7, 2005

TO: ABC's *The View*  
FAX: 212-456-0951  
RE: Breastfeeding "Nurse-In"

The United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), an organization of 40 national medical and professional organizations, has observed the recent publicity over the breastfeeding mothers' "nurse-in" staged outside the studio of ABC's *The View* with great interest. As the media covers these events, the USBC urges producers and editors to carefully consider the vital health implications of breastfeeding to both the infant and the mother, and the critical need for helping new mothers feel supported in their decision to give babies the healthiest start in life possible.

The literature overwhelmingly supports breastfeeding as the optimal form of infant nutrition, and today, more than 70% of new mothers make that healthy choice for their babies. Research also clearly shows that breastfeeding provides significant health advantages for mothers, including reducing the risk of breast cancer.

Despite the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations of six months exclusive breastfeeding and continued breastfeeding to at least 12 months and beyond, many women discontinue breastfeeding early, or choose not to breastfeed at all. The rates of breastfeeding are particularly low among low-income women who may have limited access to breastfeeding support. A primary reason for early weaning is embarrassment or discomfort breastfeeding in public. This is why most states have enacted legislation allowing women to breastfeed anywhere they have a right to be. The recent federal bill HR2790, refiled by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-New York) last month, goes a step further by protecting women under civil rights law from being discriminated against for breastfeeding or expressing milk in the workplace.

USBC calls on individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities everywhere to join in providing positive messages of support to new mothers so they can feel confident in using their breasts for what they were designed to do...feed babies.

For more information about the health implications of breastfeeding, and the enormous economic burden *not* breastfeeding poses for our country, we invite you to visit the USBC website at [www.usbreastfeeding.org](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org). If the USBC can be of assistance to you on this or future stories regarding breastfeeding, we would be happy to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Naylor', written in a cursive style.

Audrey Naylor, MD, DrPH, FAAP, FABM  
Chair, United States Breastfeeding Committee