



SR0170

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American
3 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American
4 Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of Breastfeeding
5 Medicine, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations
6 Children's Fund recommends that most babies be exclusively
7 breastfed for the first 6 months of life and continue on with
8 breast milk through the first year of life; and

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WHEREAS, In January 2011 the U.S. Surgeon General announced
10 a "Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding" that identifies
11 methods in which families, communities, employers, and health
12 care professionals can improve breastfeeding rates and
13 increase support for breastfeeding; and

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WHEREAS, In April 2011 HealthConnect One, the Department of
15 Human Services, and the University of Illinois at Chicago
16 School of Public Health released the "Illinois Breastfeeding
17 Blueprint: A Plan for Action" to implement strategic,
18 data-based recommendations to improve breastfeeding
19 initiation, continuation, and exclusivity for all women,
20 babies, and children in this State; and

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WHEREAS, Breastfeeding helps provide unique health
22 benefits to babies, including lower rates of illnesses and

1 diseases such as ear infections, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
2 (SIDS), asthma, and childhood obesity; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children who were
4 breastfed had a 20% lower risk of dying in their first year of
5 life compared to children who were not breastfed; and

6 WHEREAS, Breast milk contains important nutrients that
7 help support infant brain development; and

8 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding offers numerous health benefits to
9 new mothers by reducing their risk of diabetes, breast and
10 ovarian cancers, and postpartum depression; and

11 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding has positive economic impacts on
12 families by decreasing the need to pay for medical care for a
13 sick infant and eliminating the need to purchase infant
14 formula; and

15 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding contributes to a more productive
16 workforce since parents miss fewer days of work to care for a
17 sick infant; and

18 WHEREAS, Data from 2004 to 2008 shows that only one in 3
19 Illinois babies met the recommendation of exclusive
20 breastfeeding for 6 months; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois is below the national average and far
2 below the Healthy People 2020 Objectives in regards to
3 breastfeeding continuation and exclusivity rates; and

4 WHEREAS, Severe racial and economic health disparities
5 persist in breastfeeding initiation and continuation rates,
6 especially considering that half of black mothers in Illinois
7 never breastfeed their babies; and

8 WHEREAS, Many women who attempt to initiate or continue
9 breastfeeding lack access to medical, financial, or social
10 supports; and

11 WHEREAS, Medicaid provides coverage for breast pumps, but
12 zero coverage for support services, such as lactation
13 consultants or peer counselors; and

14 WHEREAS, Private insurance provides little to no coverage
15 for breast pumps or breastfeeding support services, such as
16 lactation consultants or breastfeeding peer counselors;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the State of Illinois
20 recognizes the unique health, economic, and societal benefits

1 that breastfeeding provides to babies, mothers, families, and
2 the community as a whole; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois shall work to ensure that
4 barriers to initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are
5 removed and that a mother's right to breastfeed is upheld.