



HR0419

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Scientific research demonstrates that good  
3 nutrition beginning in utero and extending throughout the first  
4 year of life is critical to the healthy growth and development  
5 of infants and that breastfeeding is the best form of infant  
6 nutrition by providing certain health benefits for both the  
7 mother and child; and

8           WHEREAS, The United States Surgeon General and the American  
9 Academy of Pediatrics recommend babies be exclusively fed with  
10 breast milk for the first 6 months of life, and continue on  
11 with breast milk through the first year of life; and

12           WHEREAS, Healthy People 2020, an initiative that comprises  
13 science-based, ten-year national objectives to improve the  
14 health of all Americans, administered under the U.S. Department  
15 of Health and Human Services, aims to increase the percentage  
16 of women initiating breastfeeding to 81.9% and still continuing  
17 to breastfeed when their newborn is 6 months of age to 60.6%;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, It is a mother's choice in how she feeds her baby,  
20 and the choice is often made based on the best feeding option  
21 for her infant given her and her family's life circumstance,  
22 including familial, cultural, and community issues as well as

1 based on barriers to breastfeeding, including returning to  
2 work, medical difficulties, and lack of breastfeeding support;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support  
5 Breastfeeding, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other  
6 public health organizations do promote breastfeeding goals,  
7 and some go beyond this to promote other dietary guidance for  
8 feeding an infant under age 2 or identify what a mother should  
9 do if she cannot or chooses not to breastfeed, or needs to  
10 supplement breastfeeding; and

11 WHEREAS, An example of this is provided in the U.S.  
12 Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service  
13 publication, "Feeding Your Baby in the first Year", which gives  
14 participants in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) food  
15 program a basic overview of the best sources of nutrition for  
16 their babies in the first year, starting with breastfeeding,  
17 including infant formula if needed, following with the  
18 introduction of solid foods; and

19 WHEREAS, Infant nutrition research has generated a range of  
20 iron-fortified infant formulas (as well as specialized infant  
21 formulas for premature babies and for those babies with medical  
22 conditions needing sustenance to survive and thrive) that  
23 address a critical need in providing a safe and nutritious

1 alternative to breast milk for mothers who are unable to  
2 breastfeed; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we acknowledge the role of optimal infant nutrition during the  
6 first year of life and that new mothers require information,  
7 guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for  
8 their babies; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That we recognize the scientific research  
10 documenting that breastfeeding is the best form of infant  
11 nutrition and supports breastfeeding promotion policies; and  
12 be it further

13       RESOLVED, That we aspire for mothers to make informed  
14 choices about how to feed their infants by requiring that  
15 mothers receive, prior to and/or after birth, complete and  
16 balanced information on all infant nutrition options; and be it  
17 further

18       RESOLVED, That we call on the U.S. Department of Health and  
19 Human Services to publish and distribute maternal and infant  
20 nutrition information approved by the U.S. Surgeon General to  
21 mothers prior to and after birth; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge state health departments to  
2 facilitate public-private collaboration with families and  
3 communities to increase maternal and infant nutrition  
4 awareness, particularly in underserved areas, and provide  
5 access to nutritional programs for mothers and their children  
6 beginning in utero and throughout their first year of life; and  
7 be it further

8           RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
9 the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the  
10 United States, members of the Illinois Delegation of the U.S.  
11 House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J. Durbin  
12 and Mark Kirk, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health  
13 and Human Services, the United States Surgeon General, the  
14 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other  
15 federal and state government officials as appropriate.