

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0011

Breastfeeding resolution.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Meuli, Paseneaux, Ross and
Warren

A Bill

for

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

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4 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and UNICEF seek to
5 increase the incidence and duration of breastfeeding
6 globally, as set forth in the Innocenti Declaration on the
7 Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding, adopted
8 in 1990 by thirty-two (32) governments and ten (10) United
9 Nations agencies, which states, "As a global goal for
10 optimal maternal and child health and nutrition, all women
11 should be enabled to practice exclusive breastfeeding and
12 all infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from
13 birth to four (4) to six (6) months of age. Thereafter,
14 children should continue to be breastfed while receiving
15 appropriate and adequate complementary foods for up to two
16 (2) years of age or beyond. This child feeding ideal is to

1 be achieved by creating an appropriate environment of
2 awareness and support so that women can breastfeed in this
3 manner"; and

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5 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and UNICEF have
6 established as one (1) of their major goals for the decade
7 the encouragement of breastfeeding. Despite their
8 recommendations, statistics reveal a declining percentage
9 of mothers who are choosing to breastfeed their children;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, many new mothers are now choosing to use formula
13 rather than to breastfeed even before they leave the
14 hospital, and only a small percentage of all mothers are
15 still breastfeeding when their children are six (6) months
16 old; and

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18 WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides significant health benefits
19 to both the mother and the child. Breastfeeding provides
20 maternal protection from breast cancer, osteoporosis,
21 urinary tract infections and other cancers. A recent study
22 indicates that if all women breastfed all their children
23 for two (2) years, that breast cancer in the United States
24 could decline by twenty-five percent (25%); and

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2 WHEREAS, studies now show that babies who are not breastfed
3 have higher rates of death, meningitis, childhood leukemia
4 and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses,
5 bacterial and viral infections, diarrheal diseases, otitis
6 media, allergies, obesity and developmental delays.
7 Breastfeeding may raise an infant's intelligence quotient;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, the social constraints of modern society weigh
11 against the choice of breastfeeding and lead new mothers
12 with demanding time schedules to opt for formula feeding to
13 avoid embarrassment, social ostracism or criminal
14 prosecution; and

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16 WHEREAS, any genuine promotion of family values should
17 encourage public acceptance of this most basic act of
18 nurture between a mother and her child and no mother should
19 be made to feel incriminated or socially ostracized for
20 breastfeeding her child.

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

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1 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature
2 recognizes that breastfeeding is an important and basic act
3 of nurture which must be encouraged in the interests of
4 maternal and child health.

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6 **Section 2.** That the Legislature encourages
7 breastfeeding in all situations and congratulates
8 employers, both in the public and the private sector, that
9 accommodate breastfeeding mothers.

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

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15 **Section 4.** That the Legislature strongly encourages
16 any state agency that administers programs providing
17 maternal or child health services to provide information
18 that encourages breastfeeding to program participants who
19 are pregnant women or mothers with infants.

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(END)