

1 of women initiating breastfeeding to 81.9 percent and still continuing to breastfeed when
2 their newborn is six months of age to 60.6 percent; and

3 WHEREAS, it is a mother's choice how she feeds her baby, and the choice is often
4 made based on the best feeding option for her infant given her and her family's life
5 circumstance, including familial, cultural, and community issues as well as based on barriers
6 to breastfeeding, including returning to work, medical difficulties, and lack of breastfeeding
7 support; and

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

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

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

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges
25 the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require
26 information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes
28 scientific research documenting that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition and
29 supports breastfeeding promotion policies, and that when maternity patients choose a method
30 of infant feeding or medical needs necessitate a certain method, mothers shall be fully

1 supported and counseled, whether exclusively breastfeeding, using donor milk, exclusively
2 formula feeding, or breastfeeding and supplementing with pumped breast milk, donor milk
3 and/or infant formula.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges the
5 Department of Health and Hospitals to facilitate public-private collaboration with families
6 and communities to increase maternal and infant nutrition awareness, particularly in
7 underserved areas, and provide access to nutritional programs for mothers and their children
8 beginning in utero and throughout their first year of life.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 42

Acknowledges the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies.

Urges DHH to facilitate public-private collaboration with families and communities to increase maternal and infant nutrition awareness, particularly in underserved areas, and provide access to nutritional programs for mothers and their children beginning in utero and throughout their first year of life.