

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To acknowledge 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 and to urge the Department of Health and Hospitals 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.

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

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend babies be exclusively fed with breast milk for the first six months of life, and continue with breast milk through the first year of life; and

WHEREAS, Healthy People 2020, an initiative that comprises science-based, ten-year national objectives to improve the health of all Americans, administered under the United States Department of Health and Human Services, aims to increase the percentage of women initiating breastfeeding to 81.9 percent and still continuing to breastfeed when their newborn is six months of age to 60.6 percent; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes scientific research documenting that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition and supports breastfeeding promotion policies, and that when maternity patients choose a method of infant feeding or medical needs necessitate a certain method, mothers shall be fully supported and counseled, whether exclusively breastfeeding, using donor milk, exclusively formula feeding, or breastfeeding and supplementing with pumped breast milk, donor milk and/or infant formula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges the Department of Health and Hospitals 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.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES