Today’s Date

Dear Senator or Representative\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As one of your constituents and a parent who has experience with breastfeeding, I am writing to ask you to support inclusion of Lactation Consultant care as defined by the [Ohio Administrative Code, Section 3701-7-01](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-7), in any legislative bill intended to reduce infant mortality. According to the World Health Organization, one dollar invested in enabling a woman to breastfeed generates $35 in economic return. Global, national and state health organizations recommend 6 months of exclusive breastfeeding consistent with studies validating lower rates of infant mortality, including a 73% reduction in SIDS. Ohio ranks behind many other states in infant mortality with breastfeeding rates below the national average.

Professional lactation care provided by an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant has been shown to improve breastfeeding rates among low income women, and save Medicaid systems money through better health outcomes for both mother and baby. Yet, lactation care insurance coverage without cost sharing as intended by the Affordable Care Act has been variable, perpetuating health disparities across social, economic and racial divides.

Equitable access to and full insurance coverage for professional level lactation care regardless of setting and for the duration of breastfeeding must be valued in order to empower mothers to achieve their breastfeeding duration goals. Thank you for your service, and for taking the time to consider the far-reaching investment Ohio can make to help families nourish the newest members of society to their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Contact Information