



Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. &lt;flbreastfeedingcoalition@gmail.com&gt;

## E-NEWSLETTER

Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. &lt;flbreastfeedingcoalition@gmail.com&gt;

Sun, Nov 15, 2009 at 10:03 PM

To: PATIBCLC@aol.com

# Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.

## News, Updates & Items of Interest

November 2009

Mission: To improve the health of Floridians by working collaboratively to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

Please share this e-newsletter with anyone you feel would be interested.

### Important Breastfeeding Legislation & Action Needed

- Contact your US Representatives and US Senators to support the **Breastfeeding Promotion Act** to provide a unified national policy to keep mothers, their children, and their communities healthy! Log onto [http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5162/t/6359/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=1697](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5162/t/6359/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1697)
- Contact you FL Representatives and FL Senators to vote YES on FL House Bill 79 and FL Senate Bill 86. BREASTFEEDING JURORS AND WRONGFUL DEATH CASES: The House Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee takes up measures to extend the statute of limitation in wrongful death cases (HB 1), revamp concurrent child custody rules (HB 25) and **allow breast feeding mothers to be excused from jury duty** (HB 79). (Companion Senate Bill 86)  
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?SessionId=64&CommitteeId=2479>

### Coalition Action

- The Coalition is aware that many breastfeeding mothers are being ask to stop breastfeeding by citizens and even law enforcement who are unaware of the Rights of the Breastfeeding Mother in the State of Florida. The Coalition encourages all breastfeeding advocates to help educate about the law by referring to the Coalition web page <http://flbreastfeeding.org/legislation.htm> , posting the breastfeeding law in your institution or place of business and provide handouts or cards with the breastfeeding law to breastfeeding mothers.

The Coalition has taking action with a letter writing campaign to the State Attorney, State Surgeon General and to the Florida Commission on Human Rights to request assistant in helping educate both the public and law enforcement of Florida HB 231 which reads:

**Section 1. The breastfeeding of a baby is an important and basic act of nurture which must be encouraged in the interests of maternal and child health and family values. A mother may breastfeed her baby in any location, public or private, where the mother is otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether or not the nipple of the mother's breast is covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding.** This bill passed in 1993 but many are unaware of it.

### **Coalition Action for Breastfeeding Working Mothers**

- December 14 & 15 Volusia County Health Department and Florida Breastfeeding Coalition will host the Business Case for Breastfeeding Train the Trainer. About 50 persons from all over the state of Florida will be trained in implementing the Business Case for Breastfeeding in Your Community. A Leadership Team will then work on a Strategic Plan for implementing this training to educate businesses on the importance of helping their breastfeeding employees to be able to pump and provide breastmilk for their babies.
- **We need Breastfeeding Working Mother Testimonies** - Twenty-four states have laws related to breastfeeding in the workplace, FLORIDA DOES NOT! This is a huge barrier to mothers continuing to breastfeeding when they return to work. The AAP recommends all babies be exclusively breastfed for 6 months and continue for at least one year. The Florida Breastfeeding Coalition is actively collecting testimonies of breastfeeding working mothers' challenges in the workplace. These testimonies will be used to help persuade working Florida lawmakers of the necessity of a workplace breastfeeding law. The Coalition is particularly interested in testimonies of mothers who have met with barriers, hardships or discrimination, which resulted in not being able to pump in the workplace to provide milk for their baby or the loss of their job. As well the Coalition would like to hear about success in the workplace if an employer has demonstrated exceptional support of breastfeeding mothers in the workplace. Please e-mail testimonies with contact information to [office@flbreastfeeding.org](mailto:office@flbreastfeeding.org)
- The Coalition **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to serve on a **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** for a **BREASTFEEDING WORKING MOTHER'S LAW**, please contact Pat Lindsey if you would be willing to work on a legislative committee. Please email Pat at [PatIBCLC@aol.com](mailto:PatIBCLC@aol.com)

### **Projects in the Works for 2010**

- Implementing Business Case for Breastfeeding
- Implementing Loving Support Peer Counselor Project as a partner with FL DOH and Healthy Start in 5 counties
- Physician and Healthcare Conference with La Leche League of Florida
- Forming Legislative Committee to work on legislation for breastfeeding working mothers

### **How YOU can HELP the Coalition HELP Breastfeeding Mothers & Babies**

- Spread the word about the Coalition and about the Coalition website. It's a great resource for breastfeeding information as well as advocacy of breastfeeding. Also, please include the Coalition website link on any breastfeeding materials you or your group or

- organization distributes to mothers and healthcare professionals. [www.flbreastfeeding.org](http://www.flbreastfeeding.org)
- If you know of a health fair or conference that BREASTFEEDING should be promoted at, please email [office@flbreastfeeding.org](mailto:office@flbreastfeeding.org)
  - You can make a donation to Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. (a 501(c)3 organization) by visiting [www.flbreastfeeding.org/donations.htm](http://www.flbreastfeeding.org/donations.htm)

Promote, Protect and Support Breastfeeding [www.flbreastfeeding.org](http://www.flbreastfeeding.org)

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