

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support Bill Number 7165: An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage for Donor Breast Milk. In alignment with the HP2020 recommendations of rates of breastfeeding initiation, increasing breastfeeding duration and supporting needs of infant care, access to breast milk is extremely important to infant health outcomes.

The opportunity presented by this bill empowers women to know that their infant would be able to gain the nutrients they need and deserve through lifesaving donor milk to increase their health for their lifetime. Personally, it is very validating for me to know as a future mother that my infant is potentially able to receive donor milk if I for some reason am unable to provide it to them myself. This is a very empowering and reassuring aspect to my future as a mother, and as a public health professional.

Thank you for bringing this important issue forward and hearing testimony.

Best,

*Chelsea Ortiz*