

To Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing in **support** of Raised Bill 7165: AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DONOR BREAST MILK. I am a breastfeeding mother, a Breastfeeding Counselor with the Connecticut Chapter of Breastfeeding USA, and a member of the national Breastfeeding USA board of directors. I am a New Haven resident.

Having breastfed my own four children, I am well aware of the benefits of breastmilk; the science is also quite clear on this point. Two of my children had brief NICU stays; while I was able to provide breastmilk for them, knowing that donor milk was an option made those early days a bit easier. I am proud to have been able to share my milk with other babies and families in need through HMBANA milk banks.

Although all children benefit from breastmilk, for medically fragile and premature infants breastmilk is literally life saving in many cases. Passage of this bill would demonstrate our state's commitment to our neediest neighbors; **one's economic situation should not determine whether one is able to receive the best quality health care. And providing breastmilk to medically fragile and premature infants IS the best healthcare.**

I have confidence that the committee will not only support sending this bill forward, but that all members of the committee will rally support for its passage.

Sincerely,
Meredith N. Sinclair, Ph.D.
New Haven

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