

Attn: Rep. Caroline Simmons, 144th Dist. Rep., Christine Conley, 40th Dist., Sen. Mary Daugherty Abrams, 13th Dist.Rep., Cristin McCarthy Vahey, 133rd Dist.Sen. Mae Flexer, 29th Dist. And Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th District

Regarding: No. 5109: an act exempting breastfeeding supplies from sales and use taxes

To whom it may concern:

I offer this testimony in support of exempting breastfeeding supplies from sales and use taxes. I breastfed my three children until they were each over 12 months of age. As I am very familiar with the benefits of breastfeeding to a growing body and brain, this was a priority for me and my family. I worked full time from when they each were about 4-6 months, so pumping was a necessity. I was blessed with a supportive work environment at CT Children's that values the role that breastfeeding plays in children's health and wellbeing and the role that women play in the workforce. I was allowed to alter my schedule for time to pump and provided a space that was suitable. I am lucky that I have the means to buy the supplies necessary to pump. But frequently during the total of 3 years I was pumping, I thought about what an undertaking it was and how many women ultimately stop pumping and breastfeeding because of the difficulty. Any relief we can give to families who attempt breastfeeding as long as they can will go a long way to help.

This legislation to further support breastfeeding acknowledges the struggles that working mothers face in trying to do what is best for their children while balancing their career. It acknowledges the women and babies, who for medical reasons, rely on pumping. If we want to be a state that is truly supportive of families and our future then this is exactly the type of legislation we need more of in this state.

This testimony is my own and was not made on behalf of CT Children's (though I am sure you will find widespread support from CT Children's faculty and staff).

Thank you,
Jennifer Madan Cohen, MD
Clinical Director of Neurology
CT Children's
Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics UCONN School of Medicine

Resident of West Hartford, CT (District 019/S05)

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