

I am whole heartedly in support of making breastfeeding supplies tax free.

As a mom who breastfed 3 children (and still breastfeeding the third!), I can honestly say it was the best thing I ever did as a mom. I was among the lucky ones who had support from family. But it was an uphill battle to normalize pumping in the workplace. Being able to express breastmilk while away from your baby – or if your baby is unable to breastfeed for any reason, like my first – is hugely beneficial for both mom and baby.

Studies show that breastfeeding and breastmilk improve baby's health, bonding, growth and even lowers mom's risk of cancer. The WHO recommends mothers worldwide to exclusively breastfeed infants for the child's first six months to achieve optimal growth, development and health. Thereafter, they should be given nutritious complementary foods and continue breastfeeding up to the age of two years or beyond. In a society that demands mothers to return to work before these parameters, we MUST help them find ways to continue breastfeeding while working.

You have the opportunity to remove just one more barrier that makes breastfeeding difficult in today's society: making breastfeeding supplies tax free. Breastfeeding should be considered a public health necessity, and for that reason, it's time to remove the "pink taxes," normalize things like breastfeeding and support families to breastfeed.

The short and long term benefits are clear — please consider removing just one more of the barriers that make some women fall short of their breastfeeding goals.

Thank you,
Lisa Scrofani
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