



*Amanda N. Kallen, M.D.  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Connecticut Section Vice Chair / Legislative Chair*

*Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
Yale School of Medicine  
310 Cedar Street, LSOG 304D  
New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8063*

*Telephone (203) 737-5465  
Fax (203) 785-7819  
Email: [Amanda.kallen@yale.edu](mailto:Amanda.kallen@yale.edu)*

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Dear Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 1020 members of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in Connecticut, we are pleased to support Committee Bill No. 5158. ACOG recommends that all workplaces adopt policies to promote supportive environments for new parents, including access to breastfeeding in the workplace. Women are strongly encouraged to breastfeed and ACOG supports each woman's right to breastfeed. Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first 6 months of life, with continued breastfeeding as complementary foods are introduced during the infant's first year of life, or longer, as mutually desired by the woman and her infant. This requires policies that enable women to integrate breastfeeding into their daily lives and in the workplace, including break time for expressing milk and a clean, private location for expressing milk, which are included in Bill No. 5158.

Breastfeeding initiation rates in the United States are increasing, and while many factors may influence breastfeeding decisions and challenges, barriers in the workplace should not be one of them. As an organization dedicated to combating sex discrimination and promoting the health and economic security of women and families, we appreciate your consideration of this legislation and urge its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Amanda N. Kallen  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Connecticut Section Chair