



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: July 20, 2021

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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### **Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Acknowledging the Importance of Breastfeeding Awareness and Support**

**Whereas**, breast milk is widely acknowledged as optimal nutrition for infants;

**Whereas**, breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness by protecting both infants and mothers from a host of chronic and acute diseases and conditions;

**Whereas**, the nutrients exclusive to human milk are vital to the growth, development, and maintenance of the human brain and cannot be manufactured;

**Whereas**, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, and the World Health Organization recommend that babies be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of age and continue to be breastfed until 12 months of age or longer as mutually desired;

**Whereas**, recent research estimates that upwards of \$18.5 billion in health care and premature death-related expenses could be saved each year if 90 percent of women were to meet breastfeeding recommendations;

**Whereas**, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations, such as the recent Covid-19 pandemic;

**Whereas**, employers that provide workplace lactation support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health care costs, absenteeism, and job satisfaction; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Health Services Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) operates a USDA award winning Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program which has collaborated with community partners and the Sonoma County Breastfeeding Coalition to dramatically increase the exclusivity and duration rates of breastfeeding in the County's most vulnerable population.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the unique health, economic, and societal benefits that breastfeeding provides to babies, mothers, families, and the community as a whole and affirms that the County of Sonoma should work to ensure that barriers to initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are removed; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board of Supervisors encourages the County Department of Health Services, employers, the Sonoma County Breastfeeding Coalition, and other stakeholders to work together to explore ways to improve women’s access to breastfeeding support services in medical, social, and employment settings; to facilitate increased awareness and education about breastfeeding; to explore and encourage the use of breastfeeding supports including extended bonding time for new mothers; and to improve the availability of effective breastfeeding resources and community support services.

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:                      Rabbitt:                      Coursey:                      Gore:                      Hopkins:  
  
Ayes:                      Noes:                      Absent:                      Abstain:

**So Ordered.**