

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0005

Breastfeeding resolution.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Meuli

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing breastfeeding's value to the  
2 state and its citizens.

3

4 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and UNICEF seek to  
5 increase the incidence and duration of breastfeeding  
6 globally, as set forth in the Innocenti Declaration on the  
7 Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding, adopted  
8 in 1990 by thirty-two (32) governments and ten (10) United  
9 Nations agencies, which states, "As a global goal for  
10 optimal maternal and child health and nutrition, all women  
11 should be enabled to practice exclusive breastfeeding and  
12 all infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from  
13 birth to four (4) to six (6) months of age. Thereafter,  
14 children should continue to be breastfed while receiving  
15 appropriate and adequate complementary foods for up to two  
16 (2) years of age or beyond. This child feeding ideal is to

1 be achieved by creating an appropriate environment of  
2 awareness and support so that women can breastfeed in this  
3 manner. . ."; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy  
6 statement in 1997 saying, "Extensive research, especially  
7 in recent years, documents diverse and compelling  
8 advantages to infants, mothers, families, and society from  
9 breastfeeding and the use of human milk for infant feeding.  
10 These include health, nutritional, immunological,  
11 developmental, psychological, social, economic, and  
12 environmental benefits"; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides significant health benefits  
15 to the mother as well. Breastfeeding provides maternal  
16 protection from breast cancer, osteoporosis, urinary tract  
17 infections and other cancers. A survey of previous research  
18 indicates the incidence of breast cancer in the United  
19 States and other developed countries would be reduced by  
20 forty-two percent (42%) by longer duration of  
21 breastfeeding; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, many new mothers choose to use formula or other  
24 artificial food rather than to breastfeed even before they

1 leave the hospital, and only a small percentage of all  
2 mothers are still breastfeeding when their babies are six  
3 (6) months old; and

4

5 WHEREAS, studies now show that babies who are not breastfed  
6 have higher rates of death, meningitis, childhood leukemia  
7 and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses,  
8 bacterial and viral infections, diarrheal diseases, otitis  
9 media, allergies, obesity and developmental delays.  
10 Breastfeeding may raise an infant's intelligence quotient;  
11 and

12

13 WHEREAS, the social constraints of modern society weigh  
14 against the choice of breastfeeding and lead new mothers  
15 with demanding time schedules and uninformed employers to  
16 opt for formula feeding; and

17

18 WHEREAS, any genuine promotion of family values should  
19 encourage public acceptance of this most basic act of  
20 nurture between a mother and her child and no mother should  
21 be made to feel incriminated or embarrassed for  
22 breastfeeding her child.

23

1 *Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Members of the*  
2 *Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

3

4       **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature  
5 recognizes that breastfeeding is an important and basic act  
6 of nurture which should be encouraged in the interests of  
7 maternal and child health.

8

9       **Section 2.** That the Legislature encourages  
10 breastfeeding in all situations and congratulates  
11 employers, both in the public and the private sector, who  
12 accommodate breastfeeding mothers.

13

14       **Section 3.** That the Legislature supports the right of  
15 a woman to breastfeed in any location where she has the  
16 right to be with her child.

17

18       **Section 4.** That the Legislature strongly encourages  
19 any state agency that administers programs providing  
20 maternal or child health services to provide information  
21 that encourages breastfeeding to program participants who  
22 are pregnant women or mothers with infants.

23

24

(END)