

A RESOLUTION TO PASS A POLICY IN SUPPORT OF BREASTFEEDING IN COUNTY
BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 17, 2012

WHEREAS, Breastfeeding is the biologically normal way to feed babies and breastfeeding results in many health, nutritional, immunologic, developmental, social, and economic benefits for infants, mothers, families, and community; and

WHEREAS, Public health benefits of breastfeeding include protection for babies from infections and illnesses including diarrhea, ear infections, and pneumonia; lower rates of asthma, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and obesity; and decreased risk of breast/ovarian cancers and post-partum depression for mothers; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that breastfeeding continue for at least 12 months, and thereafter for as long as mother and baby desire; The World Health Organization recommends continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond; and

WHEREAS, 75% of mothers in Washtenaw County start out breastfeeding; at the end of six months breastfeeding rates fall to 21%; and only 17% of babies are exclusively breastfed; and

WHEREAS, All breastfeeding mothers and babies should be able to do so publically in any setting, public or private, where the mother and the baby are otherwise authorized to be.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners takes the following actions:

1. Approve the policy titled, "Breastfeeding in County Buildings and Property."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners encourages municipalities in Washtenaw County to support breastfeeding by passing legislation that protects a mother's right to breastfeed in public.