

To: Chairman Atkinson and members of the Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Labor, and Energy

From: Jared Busker, Policy Analyst, Children's Advocacy Alliance

Date: May 15, 2017

RE: Testimony in support of AB113



Good morning. My name is Jared Busker and I serve as a Policy Analyst of the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), a private non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as an independent voice for children and families in Nevada in the areas of children's safety, children's health and school readiness. The Children's Advocacy Alliance is committed to ensuring that ALL of Nevada's children and their families have access to the programs and resources that will allow them to grow up healthy, safe, well-educated and ready for their optimal success in adulthood.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>1</sup>, "breastfeeding and the use of human milk confer unique nutritional and non-nutritional benefits to the infant and the mother and, in turn, optimize infant, child, and adult health as well as child growth and development." Research has shown that a breastfeeding decreases a child's risk/rates of: Gastrointestinal Tract Infections, Necrotizing Enterocolitis, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Infant Mortality, Allergic Disease, Celiac Disease, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Obesity, Diabetes, and Childhood Leukemia and Lymphoma.

Breastfeeding also offers financial savings to families and the economy. According to the surgeon general<sup>2</sup>, "families who follow optimal breastfeeding practices can save between \$1,200–\$1,500 in expenditures on infant formula in the first year alone." A recent study, *The Burden of Suboptimal Breastfeeding in the United States: A Pediatric Cost Analysis*<sup>3</sup>, concluded that "if 90% of US families could comply with medical recommendations to breastfeed exclusively for 6 months, the United States would save \$13 billion per year and prevent an excess 911 deaths, nearly all of which would be in infants (\$10.5 billion and 741 deaths at 80% compliance)."

Additionally, allowing mothers to breastfeed at work offers economic benefits to employers by decreasing work absenteeism and lower health care costs.<sup>4</sup> Overall, the return on investment has been calculated that for every \$1 invested in creating and supporting a lactation support

<sup>1</sup> <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/129/3/e827.full.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calls/breastfeeding/factsheet.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/5/e1048>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/breastfeeding/business-case/business-case-for-breastfeeding-for-business-managers.pdf>

program (including a designated pump site that guarantees privacy, availability of refrigeration and a hand-washing facility, and appropriate mother break time) there is a \$2 to \$3 dollar return.<sup>5</sup>

The passage of Assembly Bill 113 will benefit nursing mothers by ensuring that mothers who work in the private sector will still have the protections afforded to them in the Affordable Care Act and by extending these protections to mothers working in the public sector. For these reasons, we ask you to support this legislation.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/129/3/e827.full.pdf>