

Anytime, Anywhere

Why are changes needed? At the federal level, Public Law 108-199, Section 629 states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a woman may breastfeed her child at any location in a Federal building or on Federal property, if the woman and her child are otherwise authorized to be present at the location."¹ In addition, all 50 states (as of 2018) have laws that specifically permit breastfeeding in any public or private location.² However, legal protection does not always translate to access and accommodations free from scrutiny and criticism. As research indicates, a large percentage of women do not initiate breastfeeding based on public attitudes toward breastfeeding, including fear and embarrassment of breastfeeding in public.³ The anxiety surrounding breastfeeding in public highlights the need for continued societal support amidst ongoing normalization efforts.

MIBFN Recommends:

- Normalization campaigns should center on messages of Breastfeed: Anytime, Anywhere to advance feeding on cue, and reduce concerns about location-specific rights to breastfeed.
- Future legislation should include language that also protects public milk expression.
- Breastfeeding and milk expression areas should be visible and available everywhere, but marked as clearly optional spaces depending on the individual's preference and comfort level.

To learn more about the MIBFN Anytime Anywhere campaign, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org/anytime-anywhere

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1. *Public Law 108-199*, Section 629, Division F, Title VI (January 23, 2004), provides that a woman may breastfeed her child at any location in a Federal building or on Federal property, if the woman and her child are otherwise authorized to be present at the location.
 2. *National Conference of State Legislatures, Breastfeeding State Laws*, <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/breastfeeding-state-laws.aspx>.
 3. *Ogbuanu, CA, et al., "Reasons Why Women do not Initiate Breastfeeding," Women's Health Issues, 2009 Jul-Aug; 19(4): 268-278.*

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network's mission is to optimize state and community support of breastfeeding by leading collaborative actions for advocacy, education and coalition building. To learn more about our advocacy efforts, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org/advocacy.