

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 5

By: Hicks, Dossett (J.A.), Kirt
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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution encouraging state legislation relating
9 to providing breast pumps for incarcerated women in
10 Oklahoma who are pregnant or who have recently given
11 birth.

12 WHEREAS, the United States imprisons people at a higher rate
13 than any other developed nation in the world; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately 231,000 women and girls are incarcerated
15 in the U.S.; and

16 WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated women are of reproductive
17 age; and

18 WHEREAS, Oklahoma incarcerates more women than any other state,
19 growing to double the national average; and

20 WHEREAS, 80 percent of incarcerated women in Oklahoma are
21 mothers; and

22 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American
23 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommend babies be fed
24 exclusive breast milk for the first six months of life; and

1 WHEREAS, breast milk contains a 100 percent correct ratio of
2 calories, fat, protein, fluid, vitamins, minerals and immune
3 protection essential for a baby's development, growth and protection
4 from illness; and

5 WHEREAS, breastfeeding and breast milk have many short-term and
6 long-term health benefits for both the infant and mother; and

7 WHEREAS, breastfeeding is safe and encouraged for women who are
8 taking methadone or buprenorphine as there are benefits to their
9 infants; and

10 WHEREAS, a women's breast milk supply relies heavily on daily,
11 frequent milk removal either through direct feeding or expressing
12 milk; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous research studies have found skin-to-skin
14 contact between a woman and her baby is scientifically proven to
15 yield multiple benefits for both baby and mother.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
17 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT wherever possible and not precluded by security concerns,
19 correctional facilities in Oklahoma that house pregnant and
20 postpartum women should create ways to accommodate breastfeeding for
21 inmates who want to provide their infants with breastmilk.

22 THAT the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in collaboration
23 with the State Department of Health should provide breast pumps to
24

1 incarcerated postpartum women for the sole purpose of expressing
2 milk for their babies.

3 THAT systems are created to ensure an incarcerated postpartum
4 woman's breastmilk is correctly stored and delivered to her infant.

5 THAT proper lactation education and support be made available so
6 women fully understand the importance of breastfeeding.

7 THAT breastfeeding resources including access to lactation
8 consultants be made available.

9 THAT the importance of a well-balanced, nutritional diet with
10 additional calories for breastfeeding women be emphasized.

11 THAT opportunities for improved bonding between mother and child
12 be facilitated and encouraged.

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