AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN July 21, 2026

Proclaiming August 2026 as National Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Month, August 1-7 as World Breastfeeding Week, August 8-14 as Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, August 15-21 as Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Breastfeeding Week, and August 25-31 as Black Breastfeeding Week, September 8-14 as Semana de la Lactancia Latina 2026, and September 16-22 as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week in Los Angeles County

Each August and September, National Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Month, World Breastfeeding Week, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Breastfeeding Week, Black Breastfeeding Week, Semana de la Lactancia Latina, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week are celebrated to bring awareness to the health benefits of breastfeeding and chestfeeding for both infants and mothers and to advance lactation education and advocacy. Around the world, breastfeeding has sustained infants as a biological norm. The benefits of human milk feeding have well-documented health, economic, and environmental effects that result in improved infant and maternal health, reduced healthcare expenditures, decreased employee absenteeism, and overall healthier communities.[1] Breastfeeding is a proven prevention strategy that builds a foundation for lifelong health and wellness.

Therefore, an investment in human milk feeding is an investment in long-term health and wellbeing. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health

1 https://www.aliveandthrive.org/en/country-stat/usa

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Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, followed by continued breastfeeding alongside complementary foods for up to two years or longer.[2] [3] By doing so, the risk of infant mortality due to infection decreases, reduces mortality among malnourished children, and reduces the risk of ovarian and breast cancer in lactating parents.[4] Further, prolonged breastfeeding is linked to long-term benefits in childhood brain development and a lowered risk of obesity.[5] The compounded health benefits of breastfeeding for both lactating parents and infants demonstrate that this early childhood investment can produce positive lasting societal outcomes.

Despite these benefits, there are longstanding policy gaps and underfunding of public health initiatives that address the needs of lactating parents and their providers, which disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations, resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates, as well as an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes.[6] The California Department of Public Health found that in LA County (County), exclusive breastfeeding rates reached 75% among White Families compared to 57% among Black/African American families, 57% among Hispanic families, 60% among Asian American families, and 68% among American Indian/Alaska Native families.[7] These disparities underscore a need for elevated awareness and education of breastfeeding's health benefits across different communities to help address structural challenges within the healthcare system that fall along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines.

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2 https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-057988

3 https://www.who.int/health-topics/breastfeeding#tab=tab_2

4 https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/infant-and-young-child-feeding

5 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-024-03330-0

6 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0218462

7 https://breastfeedla.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/BFLA_2025_Summit_Report-final.pdf

The County maintains our demonstrated commitment to improving maternal and infant health through investments in lactation support, baby-friendly hospital practices, community-based breastfeeding organizations, peer counseling, nutrition programs, and cross-sector collaborations that help families meet their infant feeding goals.

One of the ways the County of Los Angeles (County) demonstrates its commitment to employee well-being is by ensuring that employees who choose to breast/chestfeed have the support, time, and resources they need to continue doing so after returning to the workplace.

Providing a clean, private space to express milk, allowing reasonable break time, and ensuring employees understand the accommodations available to them are more than legal requirements; they are an investment in our employees, their families, and a workplace culture that values health, inclusion, and respect.

As part of the County's ongoing commitment to employee wellness, departments play an important role in creating an environment where lactation spaces are readily available, requests are handled promptly and respectfully, and employees feel comfortable seeking the support they need. This includes maintaining accurate information about designated lactation spaces, ensuring managers and supervisors understand their responsibilities, and removing unnecessary barriers so employees can access accommodations with confidence and without stigma.

By making lactation support a routine part of how we care for our workforce, not an exception, we reinforce our commitment to being a family-friendly employer and to supporting employees through every stage of their careers and lives.

Through proclaiming National Breastfeeding Month and recognizing World Breastfeeding Week, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, Asian American Native Hawaiian

Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Breastfeeding Week, Black Breastfeeding Week, Semana de la Lactancia Latina, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week 2026, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing equitable access to lactation support and improving maternal and infant health.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim:

1. August 2026 as National Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Month;
2. August 1-7 as World Breastfeeding Week;
3. August 8-14 as Indigenous Milk Medicine Week;
4. August 15-21 as Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Breastfeeding Week;
5. August 25-31 as Black Breastfeeding Week;
6. September 8-14 as Semana de la Lactancia Latina; and
7. September 16-22 as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week in Los Angeles County.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to supporting lactating employees by encouraging all County departments to maintain workplace environments where lactation accommodations are accessible, consistent, and handled with dignity and respect. This includes ensuring timely access to private, clean, functional lactation spaces and providing reasonable break time for milk expression in accordance with County policy and applicable legal requirements;
2. Direct all County departments to strengthen internal awareness of lactation accommodation requirements, particularly among managers and supervisors, so that

requests are addressed promptly, and employees are supported without unnecessary barriers, stigma, or delay; and

3. Direct all County departments to continue to partner with the Department of Human Resources' Countywide Lactation Program to review and maintain accurate lactation space information for County-owned and leased facilities, support department compliance efforts, and advance a more consistent and employee-centered lactation accommodation experience across Los Angeles County.

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