

Public Testimony for HB 1105.

Hello Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in regards to HB 1105 in support of removing the language “discreet and modest manner” and adding a penalty for prohibiting a person from breastfeeding her child.

Thank you for considering this issue. It is incredibly important for women, especially new moms, to feel comfortable breastfeeding in public. Reducing barriers to breastfeeding can help women feel comfortable leaving their home with their baby.

When I had my first baby, I would breastfeed wherever I went, because I felt comfortable, but I had friends tell me that they had trouble breastfeeding in public because they were worried about what other people would think or having people stare. Changing the laws and continuing to destigmatize breastfeeding will help individuals like my friends feel less anxious and encourage a breastfeeding relationship.

It is about feeding your baby and keeping that connection with them no matter where you are.

There have been news stories about women being told to cover up and some being asked to leave restaurants or swimming pools for feeding their babies. Adding a penalty will send a strong message that feeding your baby is okay and publicly acceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. Breastfeeding is hard enough without having the fear of being asked to leave a space and the embarrassment that would come with that.

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