



THE STATE CHAMBER OF OKLAHOMA
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES FOR BUSINESS



Oklahoma State
Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

Dear Oklahoma Business:

May 14, 2008

The State Chamber and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) are pleased to announce a new initiative that seeks to recognize those worksites, both profit and non-profit, which support a woman's right to breastfeed. Worksites will be recognized with certificates that may be posted at your business location and publicly recognized via annual OSDH press releases.

Certificates will be awarded by the following sponsors: Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative, Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates, Oklahoma Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Service, Chronic Disease Service, and Women Infants and Children (WIC) Service.

Attached is a brochure outlining the benefits and requirements for becoming a Recognized Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding for at least 1 year to achieve optimal maternal and child health. Also, recent Oklahoma legislation supports a mother's right to express milk during unpaid breaks and meal times during her work day.

Increasing breastfeeding rates in our state will lead to a healthier workforce both now and in the future. By adding this new initiative recognizing Oklahoma's Breastfeeding Friendly Worksites, we publicly recognize employers who support breastfeeding mothers when they return to work.

In addition, breastfeeding friendly decals will be available at *no charge* for Oklahoma establishments to post near entrance doors, indicating to the public that nursing mothers and babies are welcome in your location. The decal will read "*Nursing Moms and Babies Welcome.*"

For more information, brochures, an application for worksite recognition, or to order breastfeeding decals, contact the Oklahoma State Department of Health Maternal & Child Health Service at 405-271-4480, or view web site <http://bis.health.ok.gov>.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Ronn W. Cupp
Sr. Vice President For Government Affairs
The State Chamber

James M. Crutcher, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health and Commissioner of Health
Oklahoma State Department of Health

Attachments:

- 1) Breastfeeding Works! Brochure
- 2) BF Friendly Worksite Application
- 3) Breastfeeding Decal Order Form