

# SUSPENSION

## A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR BASKIN

### Re: **Support for Breast Milk and Babies**

WHEREAS, between May 21 and 26, 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) held their 71st World Health Assembly, which is attended by delegates from all WHO member states and serves as that organization's primary decision-making body; and

WHEREAS, according to media reports, recently, US officials at the World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva opposed a non-binding resolution that called on governments to "protect, promote, and support breastfeeding" and language that called on policymakers to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food products; and

WHEREAS, the US delegation met with resistance from the other delegations which supported the natural ability of mothers to breastfeed or pump and feed their babies with their natural breast milk; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, following controversy over Nestlé's aggressive marketing of infant formula, the World Health Assembly adopted the "International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes" aimed at limiting the inappropriate marketing or promotion of breast milk substitutes, which health officials fear are an inadequate replacement for breast milk and can serve to encourage mothers to stop breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, the WHO believes, backed by a fairly broad scientific consensus, that infants fed exclusively on breast milk for the first six months of their life face improved health outcomes, as does the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of breastfeeding include protection against a number of illnesses such as pneumonia and gastrointestinal and respiratory infections, while also tending to result in babies having higher intelligence and lower rates of chronic diseases later in life; and

WHEREAS, in addition to breastfeeding's benefits to babies, the practice also translates into increased maternal health by reducing the risk of postpartum hemorrhage right after birth, type 2 diabetes, and mothers developing breast, uterine, and ovarian cancers; and

WHEREAS, Abbott and Nestle, two major baby formula makers, have reaffirmed their stance that breastfeeding is the best for babies, but the confusion and conflicting motives of both parties along with their ability to influence public policy make it essential for government agencies to clearly support breastfeeding and not be influenced by outside forces; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are various lactation rooms, signage directing mothers to lactation rooms, and brochures educating women of their choice to breastfeed through out the Erie County Rath Building;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses its support for women and babies and the natural process of breastfeeding and breast milk, and notes that ultimately, women should decide on their own, based on unbiased medical guidance, how to feed and nurture their babies, whether using breast milk or formula if breastfeeding is not medically viable or best for the child; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses its concern and opposition to the US delegation to the World Health Assembly's actions which seem designed to support industry and business concerns, instead of educating women on their choice to breastfeed and it's nutritional outcomes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to President Donald Trump, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alexander Azar, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and to the World Health Organization and World Health Assembly.