# Letter of Support of House Bill 34

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony for House Bill 34.

I recognize the honor and necessity to participate in jury duty as a means to contribute to a functioning and just society. I also recognize the honor and responsibility that comes with being a mother, as I am a mother of 6 children ranging in age from 1 to 14 years old. During that first year of each of my children's lives, I attempted to get them accustomed to bottle feeding with no success. Not only did they refuse the bottle, but using a breast pump to express milk for my baby was, at times, extremely painful and difficult. Because of this, it was imperative that I be available to physically nurse my babies on demand so they could receive the sustenance they needed to survive and thrive. For reference, my babies nursed every two hours until they were nearly a year old, even after starting solid foods. No one feeding strategy fits every baby and mother.

Jury duty would place an undue burden on both the mother and nursing baby. It would deprive the baby of necessary food and the bonding and security of its mother. The mother—who is going through a roller coaster of physical, emotional, and hormonal healing—would suffer mentally and physically if forced to separate from her nursing baby, ultimately causing her to be an unfit candidate for jury duty, thus obstructing justice for that trial. I say all of these things because this would have been me and my child, had I not been graciously dismissed from jury duty several years ago. Preserving a nursing mother's right and duty to care for society's next generation is of utmost importance. Supporting HB 34 is supporting women, children, and society.

Thank you for your time and I strongly encourage you to support mothers of Ohio and Ohio's next generation of citizens by supporting House Bill 34.

Kind Regards,
Angela Carte
New Bremen, OH