

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 34.

The legislation to allow nursing mothers to decline jury duty without repercussion will be a great benefit to our community. Allowing a nursing mother the freedom to decline jury duty in order to take care of her child and nurse him or her is truly necessary. Only child's mother can fully provide the care and nourishment that they need. In some cases, a child will only accept nutrition (breastmilk) straight from their mother, and no one else and no other method will do. I have personally experienced a child only accepting milk through nursing, no bottles or other person could have provided what I had. During such a time, it was especially vital for me (the mother) to be with my child and have the freedom to nurse.

I am certainly willing to fulfill my civic duty and serve as a jurist if I am ever asked, but would be very grateful to know that if the call comes at a time when I have a nursing little one, I will be relieved of the stress and pressure to serve at a time when I am needed by my child.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation.

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