

State Senator Fred Risser (D, Madison) has introduced Senate Bill 368 before the Wisconsin State Legislature. This bill would permit a mother to breastfeed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be.

Under current law, there are various prohibitions against lewd behavior or sexual gratification in public. Those prohibitions, since the passage of Assembly Bill 154 in March 1996, do not apply to a mother's breastfeeding of her child. Nevertheless, many mothers still fear harassment for nursing in public. Senate Bill 368 explicitly permits a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be and prohibits any person from interfering with the right of a mother to breast-feed her child as provided in the bill. Because no penalty is expressed in the bill, a person who interferes with that right is subject to a forfeiture not to exceed \$200 under the general penalty provision under current law.

Senate Bill 368 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care. To date, the Committee has not scheduled a public hearing or taken any other action on this bill.

It would be very helpful if those of us who support this bill would contact members of the Senate Committee to request that a public hearing be scheduled for Senate Bill 368. If we want this bill to succeed, we have to be active in making it happen. Individual letters may be most effective, but phone calls and emails are options as well if that is all that you have time for.

The committee members and contact information are as follows:

Senator Carol Roessler (R - Oshkosh, Committee Chair)  
8 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608)266-5300  
<mailto:Sen.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us>

Senator Ron Brown (R - Eau Claire)  
409 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608)266-8546  
<mailto:Sen.Brown@legis.state.wi.us>

Senator Alberta Darling (R - River Hills)  
316 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608)266-5830  
<mailto:Sen.Darling@legis.state.wi.us>

Senator Jon Erpenbach (D - Middleton)  
19 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608)266-6670  
<mailto:Sen.Erpenbach@legis.state.wi.us>

Senator Tim Carpenter (D - Milwaukee)  
126 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608)266-8535  
<mailto:Sen.Carpenter@legis.state.wi.us>

Thanks for your help on this!

Anne Altshuler  
<mailto:dsulman@wisc.edu>