

The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition is committed to promoting, protecting, and supporting breastfeeding throughout the state of Maryland. We were disappointed to learn of the recent actions of the United States Delegation to undermine the global resolution supporting breastfeeding at the recent World Health Assembly meeting. Please see the statement [here](#) from the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) regarding this incident.

Multiple national health care and breastfeeding organizations have issued statements regarding this incident. You can access those statements [here](#) in the USBC Weekly Wire newsletter. You can read an update on the story [here](#). You may be wondering what the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition (MBC) is doing in response to this news. As an organization we joined other member coalitions in signing on to the USBC joint letter to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Commerce. MBC continues to advocate for breastfeeding on the national and state level. Over the past year:

1. MBC members met with our federal congressional representatives and senators to advocate for laws that protect and promote breastfeeding, such as the Friendly Airport for Mothers Act and the Supporting Working Moms Act. We also signed organization letters of support that were delivered to members of congress for each of these acts.
2. MBC members testified for a paid parental leave bill for Maryland State Employees, HB775/SB859 that passed and was signed into law by Governor Hogan in May.
3. MBC wrote a letter of support for Maryland HB306, State Personnel Rights and Protections for Nursing Mothers.
4. MBC partnered with local photographers for a photo campaign “Capturing the Beauty of Breastfeeding” and shared these photos on our Facebook page.
5. MBC sponsors the “Breastfeeding Welcome Here” campaign that encourages supportive breastfeeding environments in local businesses, normalizing breastfeeding in public spaces.
6. MBC and DC awarded 21 area businesses and 4 health care providers Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace awards, normalizing breastfeeding and pumping in the workplace.

Has this recent event left with you with questions or concerns regarding the state of breastfeeding support from our federal government? Would you like to be more involved in advocating for breastfeeding rights at the federal, state, or local level? The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition is considering forming a legislative committee to work on these issues. Please email [president@mdbfc.org](mailto:president@mdbfc.org) if you are interested in working on legislative advocacy projects with The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition. When we advocate together we can enact positive change for our breastfeeding families!