

SUPPORT



Vote YES on SB 3503

Lactation Rooms In County Courthouses

Sponsor: Sen. Sims-Castro-Hutchinson-Collins-Holmes-Raoul-Bush-Harmon-Aquino-Steans-Cunningham-Biss-Koehler-Hunter-Van Pelt

What Does SB 3503 Do?

It ensures that nursing parents have access to a clean, private space to pump breast milk in all Illinois state trial courthouses.

✓ SB 3503 would require courthouses to make a lactation room or area available for pumping.

The lactation room or area must be equipped with a chair, a table, and an outlet.

- Most breast pumps require a power source, and toilet stalls rarely include outlets.

The private room or area cannot be a restroom or toilet stall. **Why can't nursing parents pump in courthouse bathrooms?**

- Breast milk is food for babies.
- Pumping in a toilet stall risks contamination of breast milk.

Is SB 3503 Cost Prohibitive?

No. SB 3503 is not cost prohibitive.

Renovation is NOT required.

- An unused room can become a court's lactation room.
- Rooms used for other purposes can be designated lactation room(s) if they are vacated and made available to nursing parents as needed.
- Partitions can convert open space into a private "lactation area."

Why Do We Need SB 3503?

SB 3503 fills a gap in Illinois law.

- Laws requiring employers to accommodate employees who need to pump breast milk at work do not help nursing parents who spend long hours in courthouses but are not employed by the court.
- The law allowing women to breastfeed their babies in public does not help nursing parents who need access to a space suitable for pumping breast milk.
- SB 3503 is consistent with the 2015 law requiring lactation rooms at Illinois airports.

SB 3503 promotes everyone's right to access the courts.

Nursing parents should not be blocked from serving as attorneys, jurors, and witnesses in Illinois citizens' civil and criminal proceedings.

No woman should be forced to choose between civic engagement and breastfeeding her baby.

- Nursing parents cannot leave home without their infants unless they have a clean, private place to pump as their schedule requires. Failure to breastfeed or pump every several hours puts them at risk for painful milk duct infections that can make future breastfeeding difficult or impossible.

Supporting Organizations

AAUW
ACLU of Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Breastfeed Chicago
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Illinois Family Institute
Illinois National Organization of Women
Illinois Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
March of Dimes
Midwest Access Coalition
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Women Employed