



March 3, 2016

**Minnesota chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics**

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Dear Perinatal Hospital Leadership Summit Attendees:

On behalf of the over 1000 pediatricians and pediatric clinicians in the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP) is supporting the Perinatal Hospital Leadership Summit "*Strategies to Increase Exclusive Breastmilk Feeding in Hospitals*" on May 19, 2016. Your interest and support of breastfeeding is to be commended! We anticipate that as you participate in the learning sessions offered at this conference, you will consider additional strategies to strengthen your facility/organization's support and promotion of breastfeeding.

Promotion of breastfeeding among your patients and families promotes better health. According to the March 2012, American Academy of Pediatrics Breastfeeding Policy Statement <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/3/e827>:

- Breastfeeding provides a protective effect against respiratory illnesses, ear infections, gastrointestinal diseases, and allergies including asthma, eczema and atopic dermatitis;
- The rate of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is reduced by over a third in breastfed babies; and
- There is a 15 percent to 30 percent reduction in adolescent and adult obesity in breastfed vs. non-breastfed infants.

We urge your strong consideration of implementing several of the ideas suggested at today's Leadership Summit. Your innovation and leadership can improve the health of Minnesota's children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Berry".

Susan Berry, MD, FAAP
President

Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics