



The Minnesota Healthy Baby Act (HF1413, SF1151)

Lactation Consultants helping breastfeeding mothers and infants

WHY LICENSURE?

Quality Standards & Patient Protection

Licensure:

- Sets the standards for providing clinical lactation services as a Licensed Lactation Consultant.
- Currently, anyone can call oneself a lactation consultant regardless of their training.
- Clarifies the Lactation Consultant clinical scope of practice as unique among providers. Lactation educators and peer counselors will have an important role in the continuum of care.
- Provides consumers with an expected standard of care.
- Ensures an adequate level of clinical knowledge when medical consultation is necessary.

Access

- Mothers who cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket for lactation services are often unable to access qualified care.
- Lactation Consultants help mothers with infants born prematurely, at low birth weight, delivered by C-section, or when intensive care is needed. Lactation Consultants are often not available to mothers facing such challenges, especially in greater Minnesota.
- Under the Affordable Care Act, Lactation Consultant services are covered by insurance when provided by licensed providers. Licensure will allow providers to submit for reimbursement enabling Minnesota's birth hospitals and clinics greater access to clinically-trained professionals.

Better Health Outcomes for All

- Lactation Consultant services increase breastfeeding rates improving short and long-term health outcomes for both mother and child.
- Access to Lactation Consultants reduces health disparities by increasing breastfeeding rates among low-income families and communities of color.

IBLCE (International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners) requires:

- 14 health science courses or existing health profession license
- 90 hours breastfeeding training
- 300-1000 supervised clinical hours certification exam passing score
- continuing education requirements
- re-certification every 5 years

IBCLC certification accredited by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies

Lactation Consultants positively affect breastfeeding success at all stages of lactation

\$13 billion in health care costs would be saved annually if 90% of U.S. infants breastfed exclusively for 6 months

HOW CAN I HELP?

Hospital Leadership

- Invite an MBC representative to meet with members of your organization to discuss the initiative
- Inform your government relations team about the bill
- Write a letter of support for IBCLC licensure and send to the mbcadvocacy@gmail.com

Physicians or Other Health Care Providers

- Give testimony in person or in writing at hearings about the importance of having clinically trained Lactation Consultants available. Please contact us by email at mbcadvocacy@gmail.com to find out more.
- Inform administration about the bill and encourage support.
- Sign the petition to be informed of future actions. The petition can be found at <http://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/licensure/>

Individuals

- Provide testimony about your experience with lactation support, either in writing or at a hearing. Please contact us by email at mbcadvocacy@gmail.com to find out more.
- Contact members of Congress in your district and encourage them to support licensure for Lactation Consultants. To find your legislator go to <http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>.
- Sign our petition to be informed of future actions. The petition can be found at <http://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/licensure/>

DONATE

- Support for the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition's activities is greatly appreciated. If 400 people donated \$50, we would reach our fundraising goal. Any amount helps!
- See <http://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/donate/> to donate and to see what funding supports including:
 - o Hospital Summits
 - o Local Coalition mini-grants
 - o Annual meetings and workshops
 - o Advocacy efforts such as licensure for Lactation Consultants
- Contribute via the AmazonSmile Program to the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com/> for more information when you purchase at Amazon.com.