Access to Donor Milk Act

HMBANA has led an advocacy effort in Congress to introduce a bill to support nonprofit donor milk at the federal level. The bill, the Access to Donor Milk Act, has been introduced in the House and Senate by a bipartisan group of Members of Congress. See the current cosponsors in the House here, and Senate here. Please see here for a full summary of the Access to Donor Milk Act.

The legislation would:

● Allow state agencies to use Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) funding to promote the need for and benefits of donor milk, and allow WIC funds to support donor milk activities in states;
● Provide emergency capacity funding ($3 million) for milk banks, in the event there is a rapid increase in demand for donor milk, as occurred during the 2022 formula shortage;
● Create a donor milk awareness program at the Department of Health and Human Services ($1 million) to educate the public on donor milk and nonprofit milk banks, and to publicize the need for donor milk; and
● Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to draft guidance that addresses appropriate standards for collection, processing, handling, transfer, and storage of donor milk. It also requires the Secretary to convene a public meeting to inform this guidance.

The Access to Donor Milk Act is supported by numerous national organizations, including:

1,000 Days, an Initiative of FHI Solutions Medela LLC
2020 Mom Mom Congress
African American Breastfeeding Network MomsRising
American Academy of Family Physicians National Lactation Consultant Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics National Partnership for Women & Families
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians National WIC Association
American Osteopathic Association National Women’s Health Network
Association of Maternal & Child Health NEC Society
Programs Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere
Human Milk Banking Association of North America The Lactation Network
America US Breastfeeding Committee
Institute for the Advancement of United States Lactation Consultant Association
Breastfeeding & Lactation Education University of California
March of Dimes ZERO TO THREE
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

HMBANA has prepared an advocacy toolkit to assist in reaching out to your Members of Congress in support of the Access to Donor Milk Act. The toolkit includes talking points, guidance on how to hold a meeting with your Member of Congress and/or their staff, and email templates. Toolkit here. Contact our federal lobbyist, Sarah Bolton, at sbolton@rabengroup.com with any questions.