



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

June 11, 2015

Hon. Tammy Duckworth
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Friendly Airports for Mothers Act of 2015

Dear Representative Duckworth:

On behalf of the 120,900 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), I am pleased to inform you that the AAFP supports the *Friendly Airports for Mothers Act of 2015* (HR 2530) and I commend you on your leadership in introducing this important legislation.

Your bill would require owners and operators of all large hub or medium hub airports in the United States to maintain a lactation area at each passenger terminal building of the airport behind the airport security screening area. Your bill defines lactation area as a room that would be “shielded from view and free from intrusion from the public,” “has a door that can be locked,” “includes a place to sit, a table or other flat surface, and an electrical outlet,” “is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs,” and “is not located in a restroom.”

As the nation’s largest physician association devoted exclusively to primary care, the AAFP fully supports your goals in sponsoring this bill. AAFP policy recognizes breastfeeding as the physiological norm for mothers and their children, and recommends that all babies, with rare exceptions, be breastfed and / or receive expressed human milk throughout the first year of life, and should continue as long as mutually desired. Moreover the AAFP recognizes that not enough has been done to support mothers whose circumstances require frequent travel, and may need to pump breast milk in public places including airports to feed their babies, to prevent engorgement, or to keep milk supply. The AAFP shares your goal of allowing mothers to nurse or pump breast milk in airports in a clean, accessible, private space outside of a restroom.

The AAFP applauds your leadership in introducing this bill and looks forward to working with you to advance it. Please contact Andrew Adair, AAFP Government Relations Representative (aadair@aafp.org), to let us know how we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAFBP
Board Chair

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