

Schindler, Pam

From: summerfields@lightnex.net
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 6:54 PM
To: Schindler, Pam
Subject: letter of support SB 372-

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 3/6/09

BILL NO. SB 372

Hi, Deb Stober informed me to send my letter to you, she mentioned that you offered to hand this to the right people...a group of us were planning on coming up but the storms are preventing and the explosion today has the whole town shook up. So thank your for sending this along...I really appreciate it

My name is Melissa Summerfield

I am from Bozeman- I live at 3879 Bosal Street, Bozeman, MT 59718 I am here to support house bill 372

I was called for jury duty while nursing my infant son. My request for an exemption was denied. And so I am speaking from personal experience when I ask you to pass Senate bill 372

Breastfeeding mothers are sole providers of nourishment to their infants. Breastfeeding is not something you can just put on hold for jury duty.

In order for a nursing mother to keep a supply of milk for an infant, she must keep feeding or pumpng milk, missing multiple feedings diminishes her supply, therefore putting her child's nourishment at risk. For a breastfeeding mother to maintain her milk supply while serving jury duty, she must leave the trial every few hours, and find a suitable place to pump for 30-40 minuets, then find refrigeration, clean the pump, and then return so the trial could continue. Clearly, this is not a realistic option or in the best interest of our court system.

Also, not all infants who have been exclusively breastfed can simply switch to bottle feeding. And not all mothers are able to use a pump. Many babies are allergic to formula and lastly, a baby who has only known breast milk will not likely accept the new taste of formula and refuse it.

I urge you to pass this bill because it ultimately protects the welfare of our children.