



*Senator*

# *Liz Figueroa*

*Tenth Senatorial District*

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Contact: Jeff Barbosa  
916-651-4010

## **FIGUEROA BILL TO HELP NEWBORN MOTHERS ALLOWS THEM TO STORE OWN BREAST MILK AT A HOSPITAL Bill Passes First Senate Committee**

**Sacramento** – A bill by State Senator Liz Figueroa (D-Fremont) to exempt hospitals that permit a mother to store her own breast milk for the use of her own child from state licensing requirements passed the Senate Health Committee unanimously today.

When a mother is unable to be physically present to breastfeed at each feeding time, due to infant hospitalization, she may wish to store her own breast milk in a refrigerator on the hospital premises. Unfortunately, current law prohibits hospitals to allow this unless the hospital obtains and maintains a tissue bank license. This law unintentionally discourages the feeding of breast milk to infants in a hospital.

SB 1785 removes that burden by exempting hospitals that collect, process, store or distribute human milk collected from a mother exclusively for consumption by her own child from tissue bank licensing requirements. Additionally, the bill requires that hospitals comply with standards set by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) when collecting, processing, storing or distributing human milk.

“No baby should be denied their own mother’s milk because the law prohibits it,” said Figueroa. “That’s particularly true of vulnerable premature, low birth weight, and hospitalized infants. SB 1785 makes it possible for mothers to continue breastfeeding even when situations make it physically impossible.”

SB 1785 will next be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee prior to moving on to the Senate Floor.

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**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol, Room 2057  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4906  
Tel: (916) 445-6671  
Fax: (916) 327-2433

**District Office:**

43801 Mission Blvd, No. 103  
Fremont, CA 94539  
Tel: (510) 413-5960 or (408) 286-0329  
Fax: (510) 413-5965

**E-Mail:**

senator.figueroa@sen.ca.gov

**Website:**

[www.sen.ca.gov/figueroa](http://www.sen.ca.gov/figueroa)