



September 12, 2023

The U.S. Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) represents 139 member organizations, including federal agencies, nonprofit partners from national to community levels, for-profit businesses, and breastfeeding coalitions representing states and territories, tribes, and local and cultural communities. Our mission is to drive collaborative efforts for policy and practices that create a landscape of breastfeeding support across the United States.

Thank you to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for convening a committee to examine and report on challenges in supply, market competition, and regulation of infant formula in the United States. This is of particular importance after the recent formula recall and subsequent shortage had an outsized impact on U.S. families utilizing formula as the primary source of nutrition for their infants.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the composition of the committee undertaking this project. We appreciate the transparency and consideration of the conflict of interest held by Dr. Wendy Johnson and her direct ties to Nestle, a formula company. Additionally worthy of further exploration is Dr. Bridget E. Young. As a "Baby Formula Expert" who has advised several startup formula companies, she has an apparent conflict of interest worthy of closer examination.

We appreciate the inclusion of Dr. Jennifer Pomeranz on this committee. She has done research and presentations on the impact of marketing practices employed by formula companies on communities, which have been particularly harmful in communities of color.

We feel that the voices of those most impacted, namely families, are missing are missing representation on the committee. In 2022, in the midst of the formula recalls and ensuing shortages, the [USBC shared a vision for a robust infrastructure for infant nutrition security](#) in the United States, which includes four pillars: parents, programs, policies, and a plan for emergencies. We stand by the notion that parents need a seat at the table on issues that impact them. While many of the people on the committee are likely parents themselves, they do not represent parent advocacy organizations concerned with infant feeding and parental access to information, supplies, and support.

Two organizations representing parents and families that you might consider for inclusion on the committee are [MomsRising](#) or [March for Moms](#). MomsRising, in particular, has some experience serving in this capacity, having participated on state Maternal Mortality Review Committees.

Additionally missing are experts who can speak to the biologically normative and recommended process of feeding infants human milk, which can be addressed in the "other related information" category of the description. Experts that we recommend include **Dr. Ifeyinwa Asiodu**, RN, PhD, FAAN of the



University of California, San Francisco; **Dr. Aunchalee Palmquist**, PhD, IBCLC, Associate Professor of the Practice at the Duke Global Health Institute; **Dr. Lori Feldman-Winter**, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and member of the Division of Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, at The Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper and board member of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine; or **Dr. Alison Stuebe**, MD, distinguished scholar in infant and young child feeding in the Department of Maternal and Child Health in the Gillings School of Global Public Health and President of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Nikia Sankofa".

Nikia Sankofa
Executive Director