

Donor Milk Saves Lives and Congressional Action Can Make a Difference Pass the Access to Donor Milk Act (S.2819/ H.R.5486)

Donor milk is an important part of infant nutrition security.

"I'm a maternity nurse and lactation consultant (RN, IBCLC), my patients prefer PDHM [Pasteurized Donor Human Milk] to using formula if their baby requires supplementation for medical reasons. That preference continues after discharge from the hospital if supplementation needs to be continued. Families deserve a choice in how they feed their newborns, and PDHM provides that choice. Using PDHM as a supplement is considered exclusive breastfeeding by the WHO, UNICEF, and AAP, and is known to be a healthier choice for newborns." - Rachel

Donor milk reduces mortality rates, lowers healthcare costs, shortens hospital stays, and supports exclusive human milk diets when a mother's own milk is unavailable or insufficient.

"My son needed donor milk as he was born very premature as I was diagnosed with severe Preeclampsia (he was born at 26 weeks, 5 days) and it took some time for me to establish my milk supply by pump. I am convinced that donor breastmilk saved his life and prevented NEC. We were incredibly fortunate to have access to a milk bank and the NICU was able to provide him some donor milk until I was able to produce. Now that my second son has started eating solids, I'm an approved donor to the same milk bank, to help ensure that other babies in need have access to breastmilk." - Andrea

"I work at a small nonprofit community hospital. We have offered HDM [Human Donor Milk] in our NICU for a while. January 2022, we began to offer it to our exclusive breastfeeding families. This has helped our families reach their exclusive breastfeeding goal. The greatest impact has been on our late pre-term babies. Most of these babies require supplementation due to their age and size. These more fragile babies have had the opportunity to receive an exclusive human milk diet thanks to our facility and the CHKD Milk Bank." - Rachel

Nonprofit donor milk banks need support to ensure families have access to donor human milk, the Access to Donor Milk Act would ensure emergency funding is available.

"When the United States faced an unprecedented formula shortage earlier this year, nonprofit donor milk banks saw a surge in demand for donor milk. During the height of the crisis, members answered the calls of desperate families seeking help to feed their babies." - Human Milk Banking Association of North America

Families and providers need information on milk banking, the Access to Donor Milk Act Would Create an HHS Awareness Program.

"Donor milk needs to be a bigger discussion and a more accessible option. I am 9 months postpartum and just now realizing I can donate my milk to support other babies. This should be offered on a much wider scale!" - Nina

"I did not know pasteurized donor human milk was an option for infant feeding until I began working at WIC. Human donor milk may not be accessible in all communities, and there is limited information about how to donate or receive a donation if there is no milk bank present. I would have been interested in becoming a human milk donor if I knew more information at the time." - Bri