

August 15, 2017 (list of signers updated 11/9/2017)

Dr. Christie del Castillo-Hegyí
Ms. B. Jody Segrave-Daly
Fed Is Best Foundation
PO Box 241736
Little Rock, AR 72223

Dear Dr. Castillo-Hegyí and Ms. Segrave-Daly:

We write to you as fellow advocates for the health and well-being of infants and their families. We believe that we share a common goal—to ensure that every baby gets the strongest start to life. It is in that spirit that we extend an invitation to you to discuss the concerns that you and your organization, the Fed Is Best Foundation, have raised with respect to our nation's infant feeding recommendations and associated health care practices.

We believe the ground we have in common is far greater than the areas where we may have disagreement. For the sake of all children, mothers and families, we therefore seek ways to unite in a shared vision rather than engaging in divisive messaging. For example, we all agree that the health of the baby is the ultimate goal, that infant feeding is a highly personal decision, that the mother should be fully informed of her options in making this decision, that nobody has the right to impose their beliefs or values on another, and that no infant, mother, or family should suffer as a result of ineffective support or care practices. We also agree that many physicians and other health care providers need improved training and education to ensure the competency to properly diagnose and address infant feeding issues, and that improved continuity of care is needed to enable new mothers to access timely, integrated, and continuous care throughout the prenatal and postpartum periods.

That's a lot of common ground to build on.

Where we seem to disagree is on the root cause behind the tragic stories that Fed Is Best has recently highlighted. That is where we would hope to engage in some honest and constructive dialogue to find shared messaging focused on providing the accurate and unbiased information families need to make their personal infant feeding decisions, along with the appropriate care and support they need to implement those decisions.

We believe that we can be most effective in serving moms and babies when we attack the root causes of problems, rather than each other. For this reason, we invite you to meet with us to talk about your concerns and discuss ways we can work together to ensure that no family has to endure the pain and heartbreak of a baby who doesn't get the nutrition they need to thrive. We hope that you will take us up on our offer and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine
Alabama Breastfeeding Committee
Alaska Breastfeeding Coalition
American Association of Birth Centers
American Breastfeeding Institute
American Public Health Association
American Samoa Breast Feeding Coalition
Antelope Valley Breastfeeding Coalition
Appalachian Breastfeeding Network
Arkansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Baby Cafe Bakersfield
Baby Cafe USA
Baby-Friendly USA, Inc.
Best for Babes Foundation
Birth and Breastfeed with Confidence
Breastfeed Chicago
Breastfeeding Center for Greater Washington
Breastfeeding Coalition of Cumberland County, North Carolina
Breastfeeding Coalition of Delaware
Breastfeeding Coalition of Palm Beach County
Breastfeeding in Combat Boots
Breastfeeding Perspectives
Breastfeeding Task Force of Nevada
Breastfeeding USA
BreastfeedLA
Bright Future Lactation Resource Centre, Ltd.
California Breastfeeding Coalition
California WIC Association
Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association
Colorado Breastfeeding Coalition
Colorado Lactation Consultant Association
Eastern Kentucky Breastfeeding Coalition
Every Mother, Inc.
Florida Breastfeeding Coalition
Florida Lactation Consultant Association
Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition
Healthy Birth of Rochester
Healthy Children Project, Inc.
iLactation
Indiana Breastfeeding Coalition
International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners
International Childbirth Education Association
International Lactation Consultant Association
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
Kentuckiana Lactation Improvement Coalition
La Leche League International

La Leche League of Portland, TN
La Leche League of the Garden State
La Leche League of the Garden State, Central New Jersey Area
La Leche League of the Garden State, New Jersey Central East Area
La Leche League of the Garden State, Skylands Area
La Leche League of the Garden State, Southern Area
La Leche League USA
Lactation Education Consultants
Lactation Improvement Network of Kentucky, Inc.
Louisiana Breastfeeding Coalition
Macomb County Breastfeeding Coalition
Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition
Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health
The Milk Mob
The Milky Way
The Milky Way Foundation
Mom2Mom Global
Momma's Village-Fayetteville
MomsRising
Montana State Breastfeeding Coalition
Mothers' Milk Bank
Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast
Mothers' Milk Bank of Alabama
Mumsboobs
National Alliance for Breastfeeding Advocacy
National WIC Association
Naturally the Best Lactation Services
Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition
New Hampshire Breastfeeding Task Force
New Jersey Breastfeeding Coalition
New Mexico Breastfeeding Task Force
New York Statewide Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
NormalizeBreastfeeding.org
North Dakota Breastfeeding Coalition
Northwest Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition
NYC Breastfeeding Leadership Council, Inc.
Occupy Breastfeeding
Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance
Ohio Lactation Consultant's Association
Praeclarus Press
Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere, Inc.
Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition
South Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition
South Mississippi Breastfeeding Coalition
Southern Michigan Doula & Childbirth Education
Texas Breastfeeding Coalition

United States Lactation Consultant Association
Vermont Breastfeeding Network
Vital Milk
West Virginia Breastfeeding Alliance
Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition