## February 2019

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## **Grand Challenges**

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**Grand Challenge: Health** 

Title: Breastfeeding Welcomed at Kansas Statehouse

Why is this issue important? Breastfeeding is the normal way to feed babies, and breastfeeding improves the health of Kansans. Employers, businesses, public and non-profit agencies can make a difference in the lives of breastfeeding mothers and infants by providing clean, comfortable and private accommodations for feeding babies and expressing breastmilk.

How was this issue addressed? Rep. Jim Ward, D-Wichita convened a meeting with interested parties to locate and furnish a lactation room at the state Capitol. Members of the work group included Rep. Eileen Horn, D-Lawrence who was a recent

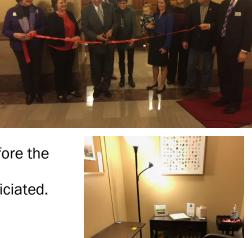
breastfeeding mother,
Kansas Breastfeeding
Coalition, Kaw Area Breastfeeding Coalition, Kansas
Department of Health and
Environment, Kansas
Statehouse representatives,
KC Healthy Kids and
K-State Research and
Extension-Shawnee County.
A small room was selected
and furnished, and a ribbon
cutting ceremony was held

on January 11, 2019 right before the legislative opening session. Governor-elect Laura Kelly officiated.

What was the impact? The Kansas State Capitol is now a 21st century employer and family-friendly statehouse for the people of Kansas.

A special thank you to the many people and organizations not listed who provided input, support and ideas. The committee also thanks

former Rep. John Wilson, D-Lawrence, who provided funding to furnish the room.



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