

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.

