March 27, 2019

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 528, the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2019

Dear Senator Daines:

I am writing on behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA), which has over 400,000 members, to express our appreciation to you and your cosponsors for introducing S. 528, the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2019. We note that the House companion bill, H.R. 866, passed the House last month and we look forward to prompt action by the Senate on this legislation.

As you know, the legislation would require covered public buildings, a designation that includes courthouses, to contain a lactation room available to members of the public. The ABA has addressed the same issue, albeit in a more limited manner.

Earlier this year, at the urging of our Young Lawyers Division, the ABA adopted a policy that encourages governments and court systems to establish and maintain lactation areas in courthouses. The installation of private, separate lactation rooms in courthouses is an important step to achieving the full inclusion of women in the legal profession.

Your bill differs from the ABA policy not only in the scope of coverage, but also because it authorizes exemptions for public buildings that do not currently contain a lactation room for employees and do not have a space that could be repurposed or that would require new construction at an unfeasible cost. We urge that all courthouses, without exception, maintain a private, separate lactation room, equipped with chair, table, and electrical outlet for use by lactating employees and members of the public.

The ABA applauds you for making this a bipartisan effort in the Senate and for taking the lead in advancing this sensible legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Carlson
President

Cc: Honorable Chris Coons    Honorable Jeff Merkley
    Honorable Tammy Duckworth    Honorable Elizabeth Warren