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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**NEWS RELEASE:**  
**Support for Breastfeeding Mothers**

This month, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signed into law a bill that excuses breastfeeding mothers from jury duty, with a doctor's written excuse, and protects them from public indecency charges when nursing or pumping milk in public. HB#1320 was passed by all members of the Missouri General Assembly, without a single "nay" vote.

MCHC is a strong supporter of breastfeeding, because the benefits to both mother and baby are significant. Benefits include a reduced risk of childhood infections and conditions such as obesity, asthma and Diabetes later in life. Breastfeeding also saves families money: formula may cost \$1,500 or more for the first year of a baby's life, and health care costs could be less if there are fewer ear infections and other illnesses.

Mother and Child Health Coalition's (MCHC) annual meeting will take place tomorrow, Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8 – 11 a.m. at Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City MO 64110. The theme of the meeting will be the collective impact of MCHC partners in greater Kansas City upon the improvement of maternal and child health outcomes in the community.

MCHC and community partners are working to promote and support lactating mothers in their places of employment. During the meeting Friday morning, Susan McLoughlin, M.S.N., R.N., C.P.N.P., executive director of MCHC, will present the following organizations with **The Employer Support for Nursing Mothers Award for 2014:**

- The City of Gladstone, Missouri
- Center for Human Services - Clay County
- Liberty Community Center
- Platte County Health Department

Interviews and photos available upon request.

**MCHC Mission:**

Every child deserves a healthy start; it is the best gift a community can give its children and itself. Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners and families to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care. For more information please visit [www.mchc.net](http://www.mchc.net)

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