

# RESOLUTION 2011 - J

**SUBMITTED TO:** American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

**SUBMITTED BY:** Michigan Osteopathic Association

**SUBJECT:** Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)

---

1 **Whereas**, the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) is a global program sponsored by  
2 the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF to encourage and recognize those  
3 hospitals and birth centers that offer optimal level of care for lactation; and

4 **Whereas**, there are currently no BFHI hospitals or birth centers in Michigan; and

5 **Whereas**, the process of receiving this award involves the following:

- 6 a. Apply for a certificate
- 7 b. Implement and achieve the BFHI requirements for each of the Ten Steps to  
8 Successful Breastfeeding<sup>1</sup>
- 9 c. Site Visit and Assessment
- 10 d. Designation Awarded

11 **Whereas**, every facility providing maternity services and care for the newborn should  
12 implement the following Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding:

- 13 a. Have a written policy that is routinely communicated to all health care staff.
- 14 b. Train all health care staff in skills necessary to implement this policy.
- 15 c. Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
- 16 d. Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within an hour of birth.
- 17 e. Show mothers how to breastfeed, and how to maintain lactation even if they  
18 should be separated from their infants.
- 19 f. Give newborn infants no food or drink other than breast milk, unless medically  
20 indicated.
- 21 g. Practice "rooming-in" by allowing mothers and infants to remain together-24  
22 hours a day.
- 23 h. Encourage breast feeding on demand.
- 24 i. Give no artificial teats, pacifiers, dummies or soothers to breastfeeding infants.
- 25 j. Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to  
them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.

**Therefore, Be it Further Resolved**, that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
encourage all hospitals and birth centers to educate new mothers in the techniques and  
benefits of breastfeeding their newborn infants, and

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the AOA promote and give special recognition to hospitals  
and birth centers who receive the BFHI award.

---