



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S. 3526, *LACTATION SPACES FOR VETERAN MOMS ACT*

WHEREAS: Women veterans are the fastest growing population at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today. According to the VA, there are more than 2 million women veterans across the U.S., and they make up 10% of the veteran population; *and*

WHEREAS: The VA Office of Women's Health recently reported that women comprise 30% of all new Veterans Health Administration (VHA) patients, and 3 out of 4 women veterans who used VA health services in FY19 had an urban residence, but the number of rural women is increasing; *and*

WHEREAS: As the number of women veterans using VA health care grows, it is critical for the VA to ensure that it provides gender specific healthcare, and creates environments that are safe and welcoming to all veterans. This includes private, convenient, and hygienic lactation stations that women can easily and safely access while they are obtaining the health care they have earned; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the VA, there is a Women Veterans Program Manager at every VA Medical Center across the U.S. to advise, advocate and coordinate health services for women veterans, including primary care, specialized care, reproductive and maternity care; *and*

WHEREAS: S. 3526, *Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act*, sponsored by U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen of Nevada and introduced to the Senate on December 14, 2023, will require each VA medical center to create a lactation station for nursing veterans; *and*

WHEREAS: As more women serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and we manage a growing women veterans population, we must recognize the experiences they face upon returning from service and provide them with the necessary care and facilities to meet their health care needs; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council strongly supports the passage of S. 3526, *Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act*, in Congress, and urges prompt action in the passage of these legislation.

Filed on: February 7, 2024