

BROADCAST- New law should ease holiday travel for breastfeeding mothers

ANCHOR LEAD-IN:

Traveling through airport security can be stressful for any parent — but for breastfeeding moms, it can be overwhelming. A new federal law aims to ease that stress by changing how the TSA handles breast milk, pumping supplies and formula.

VO or RADIO PACKAGE:

The bipartisan BABES Act, recently signed into law and co-sponsored by Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth, sets national standards for how infant nutrition items are handled at airport checkpoints.

Becky Miller, a lactation counselor with OSF HealthCare, says testimony from breastfeeding mothers highlighted why the change was needed.

SOT-Becky Miller, lactation counselor, OSF HealthCare

"They've had to be pulled aside from other people. They put test strips down in their milk and wonder, 'Has my milk just been contaminated?' Is it still safe?' Even formula-fed babies – they do that to the water to make sure there's nothing in it. So, these things and getting better policies for safe handling is the best part of this legislation." (:25)

The law requires TSA to update its screening guidance, consult with maternal health experts, and hold officers and contractors accountable for following proper procedures.

ANCHOR TAG: Miller warns new moms to pack their patience because the TSA is likely still working through implementation and not all TSA agents will be trained on the new protocols.