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“No pregnant woman or new mother should be forced to choose between the health of her baby and her job. In New Hampshire, about 70 percent of women who gave birth in 2013 also worked during their pregnancies, and their presence in the workplace is vital to our economy.

As someone who worked during both of my pregnancies and also breastfed, I understand the challenges facing pregnant women and new mothers in the workplace. To ensure that pregnant workers and nursing moms are treated equally in the workplace, Senator Shaheen and I recently introduced the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), bipartisan legislation that would require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees and new moms.

“The PWFA is modeled on the legal standard in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and would ensure that pregnant workers and nursing moms are able to continue working while protecting them from being forced to take unpaid time off or leave their jobs altogether. The bill also prohibits employers from denying employment opportunities to women based on their need for reasonable accommodations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

I will continue my efforts on behalf of pregnant workers and nursing moms to ensure that all women are able provide for their families and that they receive fair treatment in the workplace.”

- Senator Kelly A. Ayotte