

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

Dan Finke
Executive Vice President
Aetna
C/O CVS Health Corporation
151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, C.T., 06156

Dear Mr. Finke:

I am writing to urge you to make it easier and more affordable for new moms in Georgia and nationwide to breastfeed their babies if they are able and choose to do so, and seeking specific information regarding your policies related to breastfeeding.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover breastfeeding supplies and support services, yet for too many mothers, accessing the equipment they need to breastfeed is much harder and more expensive than it should be. I've heard from moms in Georgia about the challenges they face trying to breastfeed their babies, especially after returning to work.

Breastfeeding has various health benefits for infants, children, and mothers. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding mothers have a lower risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes and more.¹

Despite 83.2% of newborn infants ever being breastfed, 60% of mothers stop breastfeeding before their intended end date.² There are health and economic benefits to supporting breastfeeding mothers including reduced risk for various diseases and lower medical costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that unsupportive policies at work are a common reason mothers choose to stop breastfeeding.³ It is imperative that we give mothers more options and support them if they decide to breastfeed.

I ask you to provide answers to the questions below in writing within three weeks.

1. What is Aetna's coverage policy regarding breastfeeding equipment, breast pumps, and supplies for expecting and postpartum mothers? Do you require a prescription or prior authorization?
2. Does Aetna's coverage offer access to electronic or hospital grade pumps or only manual pumps? If only manual pumps, why?

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CHAIR, PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS

3. Please share Aetna's coverage policy for pump parts and maintenance.
4. Does Aetna's coverage offer access to a second breast pump so the mother can breast pump with one at work and one at home without the need to transport daily?
5. Does Aetna's coverage offer access to breast pumps prior to the birth of a child? If not, how long on average does it take for a woman to receive her breast pump and why do you not offer access to breast pumps prior to delivery?
6. Does Aetna offer lactation counseling for women who are having breastfeeding issues at no-cost to the woman?
7. How is all this information shared with expecting and postpartum women that receive your coverage?
8. Will Aetna commit to voluntarily covering two breast pumps, providing greater access to pump parts and maintenance, increasing access to a wider range of breast pumps to fit the unique needs of each individual, and making it easier for women to get these pumps before the birth of their child?

I look forward to your response within three weeks.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

¹ Food and Drug Administration. [Knowledge and News on Women: National Breastfeeding Month.](#)

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Breastfeeding Report Card, 2022.](#)

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Key Breastfeeding Indicators.](#)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

Mr. David Cordani
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Cigna Corporation
900 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, C.T., 06002

Dear Mr. Cordani:

I am writing to urge you to make it easier and more affordable for new moms in Georgia and nationwide to breastfeed their babies if they are able and choose to do so, and seeking specific information regarding your policies related to breastfeeding.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover breastfeeding supplies and support services, yet for too many mothers, accessing the equipment they need to breastfeed is much harder and more expensive than it should be. I've heard from moms in Georgia about the challenges they face trying to breastfeed their babies, especially after returning to work.

Breastfeeding has various health benefits for infants, children, and mothers. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding mothers have a lower risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes and more.¹

Despite 83.2% of newborn infants ever being breastfeed, 60% of mothers stop breastfeeding before their intended end date.² There are health and economic benefits to supporting breastfeeding mothers including reduced risk for various diseases and lower medical costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that unsupportive policies at work are a common reason mothers choose to stop breastfeeding.³ It is imperative that we give mothers more options and support them if they decide to breastfeed.

I ask you to provide answers to the questions below in writing within three weeks.

1. What is Cigna's coverage policy regarding breastfeeding equipment, breast pumps, and supplies for expecting and postpartum mothers? Do you require a prescription or prior authorization?
2. Does Cigna's coverage offer access to electronic or hospital grade pumps or only manual pumps? If only manual pumps, why?

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3. Please share Cigna's coverage policy for pump parts and maintenance.
4. Does Cigna's coverage offer access to a second breast pump so the mother can breast pump with one at work and one at home without the need to transport daily?
5. Does Cigna's coverage offer access to breast pumps prior to the birth of a child? If not, how long on average does it take for a woman to receive her breast pump and why do you not offer access to breast pumps prior to delivery?
6. Does Cigna offer lactation counseling for women who are having breastfeeding issues at no-cost to the woman?
7. How is all this information shared with expecting and postpartum women that receive your coverage?
8. Will Cigna commit to voluntarily covering two breast pumps, providing greater access to pump parts and maintenance, increasing access to a wider range of breast pumps to fit the unique needs of each individual, and making it easier for women to get these pumps before the birth of their child?

I look forward to your response within three weeks.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Breastfeeding Report Card, 2022.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Key Breastfeeding Indicators.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

Gail K. Boudreaux
President and Chief Executive Officer
Elevance Health, Inc.
220 Virginia Avenue
Indianapolis, I.N., 46204

Dear Ms. Boudreaux:

I am writing to urge you to make it easier and more affordable for new moms in Georgia and nationwide to breastfeed their babies if they are able and choose to do so, and seeking specific information regarding your policies related to breastfeeding.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover breastfeeding supplies and support services, yet for too many mothers, accessing the equipment they need to breastfeed is much harder and more expensive than it should be. I've heard from moms in Georgia about the challenges they face trying to breastfeed their babies, especially after returning to work.

Breastfeeding has various health benefits for infants, children, and mothers. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding mothers have a lower risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes and more.¹

Despite 83.2% of newborn infants ever being breastfed, 60% of mothers stop breastfeeding before their intended end date.² There are health and economic benefits to supporting breastfeeding mothers including reduced risk for various diseases and lower medical costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that unsupportive policies at work are a common reason mothers choose to stop breastfeeding.³ It is imperative that we give mothers more options and support them if they decide to breastfeed.

I ask you to provide answers to the questions below in writing within three weeks.

1. What is Elevance Health's coverage policy regarding breastfeeding equipment, breast pumps, and supplies for expecting and postpartum mothers? Do you require a prescription or prior authorization?
2. Does Elevance Health's coverage offer access to electronic or hospital grade pumps or only manual pumps? If only manual pumps, why?

3. Please share Elevance Health's coverage policy for pump parts and maintenance.
4. Does Elevance Health's coverage offer access to a second breast pump so the mother can breast pump with one at work and one at home without the need to transport daily?
5. Does Elevance Health's coverage offer access to breast pumps prior to the birth of a child? If not, how long on average does it take for a woman to receive her breast pump and why do you not offer access to breast pumps prior to delivery?
6. Does Elevance Health offer lactation counseling for women who are having breastfeeding issues at no-cost to the woman?
7. How is all this information shared with expecting and postpartum women that receive your coverage?
8. Will Elevance Health commit to voluntarily covering two breast pumps, providing greater access to pump parts and maintenance, increasing access to a wider range of breast pumps to fit the unique needs of each individual, and making it easier for women to get these pumps before the birth of their child?

I look forward to your response within three weeks.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

¹ Food and Drug Administration. [Knowledge and News on Women: National Breastfeeding Month.](#)

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Breastfeeding Report Card, 2022.](#)

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Key Breastfeeding Indicators.](#)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

Bruce D. Broussard
President and Chief Executive Officer
Humana
500 West Main Street
Louisville, K.Y. 40202

Dear Mr. Broussard:

I am writing to urge you to make it easier and more affordable for new moms in Georgia and nationwide to breastfeed their babies if they are able and choose to do so, and seeking specific information regarding your policies related to breastfeeding.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover breastfeeding supplies and support services, yet for too many mothers, accessing the equipment they need to breastfeed is much harder and more expensive than it should be. I've heard from moms in Georgia about the challenges they face trying to breastfeed their babies, especially after returning to work.

Breastfeeding has various health benefits for infants, children, and mothers. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding mothers have a lower risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes and more.¹

Despite 83.2% of newborn infants ever being breastfed, 60% of mothers stop breastfeeding before their intended end date.² There are health and economic benefits to supporting breastfeeding mothers including reduced risk for various diseases and lower medical costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that unsupportive policies at work are a common reason mothers choose to stop breastfeeding.³ It is imperative that we give mothers more options and support them if they decide to breastfeed.

I ask you to provide answers to the questions below in writing within three weeks.

1. What is Humana's coverage policy regarding breastfeeding equipment, breast pumps, and supplies for expecting and postpartum mothers? Do you require a prescription or prior authorization?
2. Does Humana's coverage offer access to electronic or hospital grade pumps or only manual pumps? If only manual pumps, why?

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3. Please share Humana's coverage policy for pump parts and maintenance.
4. Does Humana's coverage offer access to a second breast pump so the mother can breast pump with one at work and one at home without the need to transport daily?
5. Does Humana's coverage offer access to breast pumps prior to the birth of a child? If not, how long on average does it take for a woman to receive her breast pump and why do you not offer access to breast pumps prior to delivery?
6. Does Humana offer lactation counseling for women who are having breastfeeding issues at no-cost to the woman?
7. How is all this information shared with expecting and postpartum women that receive your coverage?
8. Will Humana commit to voluntarily covering two breast pumps, providing greater access to pump parts and maintenance, increasing access to a wider range of breast pumps to fit the unique needs of each individual, and making it easier for women to get these pumps before the birth of their child?

I look forward to your response within three weeks.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Breastfeeding Report Card, 2022.](#)

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Key Breastfeeding Indicators.](#)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

Brian Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
UnitedHealth Group
P.O. Box 1459
Minneapolis, M.N., 55440

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am writing to urge you to make it easier and more affordable for new moms in Georgia and nationwide to breastfeed their babies if they are able and choose to do so, and seeking specific information regarding your policies related to breastfeeding.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover breastfeeding supplies and support services, yet for too many mothers, accessing the equipment they need to breastfeed is much harder and more expensive than it should be. I've heard from moms in Georgia about the challenges they face trying to breastfeed their babies, especially after returning to work.

Breastfeeding has various health benefits for infants, children, and mothers. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding mothers have a lower risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes and more.¹

Despite 83.2% of newborn infants ever being breastfed, 60% of mothers stop breastfeeding before their intended end date.² There are health and economic benefits to supporting breastfeeding mothers including reduced risk for various diseases and lower medical costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that unsupportive policies at work are a common reason mothers choose to stop breastfeeding.³ It is imperative that we give mothers more options and support them if they decide to breastfeed.

I ask you to provide answers to the questions below in writing within three weeks.

1. What is UnitedHealthcare's coverage policy regarding breastfeeding equipment, breast pumps, and supplies for expecting and postpartum mothers? Do you require a prescription or prior authorization?
2. Does UnitedHealthcare's coverage offer access to electronic or hospital grade pumps or only manual pumps? If only manual pumps, why?

3. Please share UnitedHealthcare's coverage policy for pump parts and maintenance.
4. Does UnitedHealthcare's coverage offer access to a second breast pump so the mother can breast pump with one at work and one at home without the need to transport daily?
5. Does UnitedHealthcare's coverage offer access to breast pumps prior to the birth of a child? If not, how long on average does it take for a woman to receive her breast pump and why do you not offer access to breast pumps prior to delivery?
6. Does UnitedHealthcare offer lactation counseling for women who are having breastfeeding issues at no-cost to the woman?
7. How is all this information shared with expecting and postpartum women that receive your coverage?
8. Will UnitedHealthcare commit to voluntarily covering two breast pumps, providing greater access to pump parts and maintenance, increasing access to a wider range of breast pumps to fit the unique needs of each individual, and making it easier for women to get these pumps before the birth of their child?

I look forward to your response within three weeks.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Breastfeeding Report Card, 2022.](#)

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Key Breastfeeding Indicators.](#)