

THE  
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December 12, 2014

**BY EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

Regina Kwan Peterson  
Director of Administration  
Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar  
625 S. College Street  
Springfield, IL 62704

**Re: Non-Standard Testing Accommodations Policy for Nursing Mothers**

Dear Ms. Peterson:

We were pleased to learn that the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar ("Board") recently reconsidered its denial of non-standard testing accommodations for Kristin Pagano and has granted her request for a private testing space (possibly with other nursing mothers), with access to a private sanitary space for expressing breast milk; "stop the clock" breaks of up to 30 minutes for each 3-hour test session; and the guarantee of a female proctor.

Ms. Pagano had consulted us prior to the Board's decision to grant her accommodations. We write to applaud the Board's decision to break with its past practice in offering these accommodations to Ms. Pagano, and to inquire about broader policy change. We encourage the Board to amend its policies and practices in order to provide all nursing mothers who seek non-standard testing accommodations with similar accommodations to those granted to Ms. Pagano. Such change is necessary in order to ensure that the Board's policies both comport with the law and reflect best practices for professional licensing examinations.

We have been involved in other efforts of this kind, including policy change for nursing mothers taking the Law School Admissions Test and certain medical licensing tests. In the process of doing so, we have analyzed the law and have reviewed policies adopted by other states' bar examiners and licensing boards. We would be happy to serve as a resource to you in any way that would be helpful as you examine your policies regarding accommodations for nursing mothers.

Please let us know where the Board stands on its policies with respect to nursing mothers and how we may be of service. We will look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lorie Chaiten  
Amy Meek  
Reproductive Rights Project  
Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois

Galen L. Sherwin  
ACLU Women's Rights Project