

**MESSAGE FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
J.B. CORDARO**

I am enjoying filling the role of IBLCE Interim Executive Director and believe that I can bring real value to this position until a permanent person is selected. Along with the IBLCE Regional directors and staff, we are aggressively addressing a wide range of managerial, administrative, personnel, and substantive issues. I plan to update you from time to time on the progress we are making in these many areas and seek your wise counsel and suggestions. Now I want to address whether my earlier trade association work is consistent enough with the mission and objectives of IBLCE. For the record let me lay out a few relevant facts to put the matter to rest.

First, my previous work history was provided in full and complete transparent detail in my resume and fully vetted in my discussions with the IBLCE Chairperson and reference checks.

Second, I have a long and impeccable track record of support of breastfeeding from my international development assistance experiences, including most recently with the Global Alliance For Improved Nutrition (GAIN); my graduate work in nutrition policy at Cornell University under the guidance of (studies/co-thesis chairman) one of the worlds leading, outspoken, and knowledgeable breastfeeding experts; and my personal family support for the value of breastfeeding has been steadfast.

Third, while I was the CRN President, I never--not even once--addressed infant formula issues as this was not a part of our responsibilities. Some members had a wide range of products--from chemicals, trees/lumber, beverages, paintball supplies, OTCs, drugs, and a host of other products, including divisions that manufactured infant formula products. However, CRN members' dues were based on dietary supplement products and the ingredients used in those supplement products. Thus, during my tenure we did not have responsibility for infant formula products nor funds to engage the issue. Indeed, another trade association represented infant formula issues.

Fourth, I signed a contract with IBLCE which stipulates that I will be in compliance with the WHO Breastfeeding Code and IBLCE's Conflict of Interest statement.

Fifth, I want to be fairly judged by my IBLCE conduct--beliefs, words, deeds, actions and adherence to the terms of my contractual agreement-- as IBLCE Interim Executive Director not unfairly portrayed or characterized for previous misrepresented associations by people who do not know me.

In conclusion, IBLCE has magnificent and unlimited opportunities to grow our organization and to help improve the health and well being of millions of women and children around the world. It is a disservice to our unique mission to become distracted from the tasks needed to fulfill our global responsibility. Together we can make it happen!

Thank you.