



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the first week of August is recognized as World Breastfeeding Week, a global initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and its importance and positive effects on the growth and development of infants; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee laws permit mothers to breastfeed in any location, public or private; prohibit local governments from criminalizing or restricting breastfeeding and state employers shall provide reasonable unpaid break time and access to non-bathroom space to express milk for breastfeeding employees; and

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding is recognized by Tennessee Department of Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the National Association of WIC Directors as the preferred method of infant feeding; and

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding promotes overall infant health, growth and development and helps prevent infections during infancy, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses through childhood and adulthood; and mothers benefit from breastfeeding through advanced postpartum recovery and decreased risk of cancers, anemia, diabetes and osteoporosis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Health recognizes it is vital for families to make informed choices about the health and care of infants and supports increased efforts by hospital staff, providers, employers and all Tennesseans to support breastfeeding families; and

**WHEREAS**, World Breastfeeding Week 2017 is a time to recognize past achievements and future endeavors and to celebrate the 2017 theme, "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together";

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2017 as

*Breastfeeding Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of July, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*DeWitt*

Secretary of State