



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 important and positive long-term 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 specify that the act of breastfeeding shall not be considered public indecency; and

WHEREAS, national estimates suggest that if 90 percent of U.S. babies were breastfed exclusively for six months, the nation would save \$13 billion per year in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is recognized by the Tennessee Department of Health and major medical organizations such as 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 Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Association Directors as the preferred method of infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes overall health, growth, and development, and helps to prevent infections during infancy, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses in childhood and later adulthood; and

WHEREAS, mothers benefit from breastfeeding as it not only advances postpartum recovery and return to pre-pregnancy weight but decreases the risk of ovarian, uterine, and endometrial cancers, as well as 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 encourage breastfeeding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2022, 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 twelfth day of May, 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Scott R. Fitzgerald

Secretary of State