



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 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, the National Association of WIC Directors, UNICEF and WHO 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**, women with infants and children are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. labor force, yet women cite returning to work as one of the primary reasons for not continuing to breastfeed to six months of age; and

**WHEREAS**, accommodations for breastfeeding at work benefit not only women and children, but employers as well as there are cost savings in terms of health care including less illness among breastfed children, higher morale and a stronger sense of loyalty among female employees, and greater awareness of a positive, family-friendly image in the community; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, infant nutrition should be considered a public health issue; and

**WHEREAS**, World Breastfeeding Week 2013 is a time to recognize past achievements and future endeavors and to celebrate the 2013 theme, "Breastfeeding Support: Close to Mothers;"

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2013, as

## *World 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 fifth day of July, 2013.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Joe Mangot, Secretary of State of Tennessee.

Secretary of State

