

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin acknowledges the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for babies and their parents and promotes inclusive support for every family, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that makes every family and community unique; and

WHEREAS; unfortunately, racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist across the state and throughout the country, reflecting the institutional barriers that exist for Black families in healthcare, community, and employment settings; and

WHEREAS; research shows that Black parents in Wisconsin continue to initiate breastfeeding at much lower rates than white parents and that, nationwide, Wisconsin exhibits one of the widest gaps between white and Black infants in rates of exclusive breastfeeding through the first six months of life; and

WHEREAS; racial equity in breastfeeding must be prioritized in order to address systemic injustices that prevent all Wisconsin families from achieving their full potential and that contribute to racial disparities in birth outcomes, pregnancy-related morbidity rates, and pregnancy-related mortality rates; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin applauds the community-based organizations across the state that are committed to the important work of promoting diversity in the lactation field and changing systems and structures to better support families and joins them, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in celebrating breastfeeding, promoting awareness of its benefits, and ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all families, now and in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 25 through 31 2023 as

## **BLACK BREASTFEEDING WEEK**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State