

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 all milk-feeding families 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; while there is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native families—a reflection of the unique barriers and systemic racism faced by Native people in healthcare, employment, and community settings—it is well-documented that racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist due to these barriers; and

WHEREAS; we recognize the importance of reducing racial disparities in healthcare and birth outcomes and of promoting diversity in the lactation field, and we applaud the community-based breastfeeding organizations across our state, including the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin, that are championing this important work; and

WHEREAS; while August is National Breastfeeding Month, it is essential to have a week that is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native families and that is centered on encouraging breastfeeding as a way to combat the systemic injustices that prevent all Wisconsin families from achieving their full breastfeeding potential; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin applauds the community-based organizations across our state that are committed to the important work of promoting diversity in the lactation field and joins them, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in working towards racial equity in breastfeeding and in parental and child health more broadly, now and in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 8 through 14, 2021 as

## **NATIVE BREASTFEEDING WEEK**

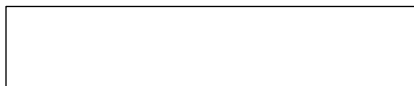
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State