

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; the state of Wisconsin acknowledges the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for babies and their mothers, 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*; while there is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native families—a reflection of the unique barriers and systemic racism faced by Indigenous 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, promoting diversity in the lactation field, and changing systems and structures to better support breastfeeding families, 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, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native families and is centered on encouraging breastfeeding as a way to combat the systemic injustices that prevent families from achieving their full potential; and

*WHEREAS*; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins community-based organizations across our state, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in celebrating breastfeeding, promoting awareness of its benefits, and ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all babies and parents, now and in the future;

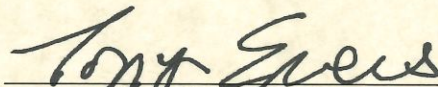
*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 8 – 14, 2022, as

## INDIGENOUS MILK MEDICINE 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State