

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin acknowledges the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for both babies and mothers; and

WHEREAS; while there is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native women – a reflection of the unique barriers faced by Native women in healthcare, employment, and community settings – it is well documented that, as a result of these barriers as well as structural and institutional racism, racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist; 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 breastfeeding organizations, including the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin, that are championing this important work; and

WHEREAS; while August is National Breastfeeding Month, it is necessary to have a week that is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native women 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 provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to encourage government agencies, community-based organizations, and academic institutions to share this message and work together to engage in equity efforts in their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 9 through 15, 2020, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State