

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

WHEREAS; racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist in our state and throughout our country, reflecting the institutionalized barriers that exist for Black women in medical, community, and employment settings, including racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS; research shows that fewer than half of Black mothers in our state initiate breastfeeding, compared to approximately 85 percent of white mothers, and that, nationwide, Wisconsin exhibits the widest gap between white and Black infants in rates of exclusive breastfeeding through the first six months of life; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes the need to promote diversity in the lactation field and we applaud the community breastfeeding champions who are committed to this important work; and

WHEREAS; while August is National Breastfeeding Month, we understand that racial equity in breastfeeding must be prioritized in order to address systemic injustices preventing families from achieving their full breastfeeding potential and that a week that highlights the unique challenges facing Black mothers is essential to combating racial disparities in breastfeeding, as well as in birth outcomes and maternal mortality rates; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the State Department of Health Services and our many community-based organizations – including the African American Breastfeeding Network, Harambee Village, and the African American Breastfeeding Alliance of Dane County – in working towards racial equity in breastfeeding and in maternal healthcare more broadly;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 25 through 31, 2020, 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 2nd day of July 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State