

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

WHEREAS; research shows that Black parents in our state 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; while August is National Breastfeeding Month, we understand that racial equity in breastfeeding must be prioritized in order to address systemic injustices that prevent all Wisconsin families from achieving their full breastfeeding potential and that contribute to racial disparities in birth outcomes, pregnancy-related morbidity rates, and pregnancy-related mortality rates, which is why a week that highlights the unique challenges facing Black families is essential; 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 25 – 31, 2021, 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State