

# 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*; 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; 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*; racial equity in breastfeeding must be prioritized in order to address systemic injustices that prevent all Wisconsin families from achieving their full potential and that contribute to racial disparities in birth outcomes, pregnancy-related morbidity rates, and pregnancy-related mortality rates; 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 changing systems and structures to better support breastfeeding families, and joins them, 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;

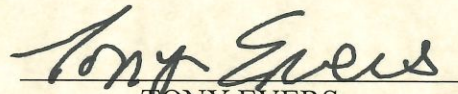
*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 25 – 31, 2022, as

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State