



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, our governments and communities have a vested interest in protecting, promoting, and supporting lactation and breast/chestfeeding as a means of preventing infant and maternal malnutrition, acute and chronic morbidity and mortality; and

WHEREAS, exclusive breast/chestfeeding and/or human milk feeding for a child's first six months, with the appropriate introduction of complementary foods around the middle of the first year, and continuing until the child is at least two years old is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for lifelong health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, human milk provides biologically appropriate nutrition for early childhood growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease; protects the lactating person's and infant's health, and reduces the risk of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, the evidence of the value of human milk feeding to the health of the birthing parent and the child is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by ongoing and new research; and

WHEREAS, the great majority of new parents want their infants to receive human milk but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breast/chestfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, breast/chestfeeding provides food security for infants during disasters and emergencies and can prevent hunger, malnutrition and save lives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Breastfeeding Committee designates August as "National Breastfeeding Month" and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action designates August 1-7 as "World Breastfeeding Week;" and

WHEREAS, the 2022 World Breastfeeding Week theme, "Step up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support," activates a plan to inform people about their role in strengthening the chain of support for breast/chestfeeding, anchoring breast/chestfeeding as part of good nutrition, food security and reduction of inequalities, engaging with individuals and organizations and galvanizing action on strengthening capacity of actors and systems for transformational change; and

WHEREAS, International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and other breast/chestfeeding counselors and educators have an important role in assisting parents with sustaining lactation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

AUGUST 2022 AS BREASTFEEDING MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this third day of August in the year two thousand and twenty-two, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR