



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the United States Breastfeeding Committee, recognizes the extensive benefits of breastfeeding for both infants and their caregivers; and,

WHEREAS, it is critical to promote and support all families that provide human milk, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, educational attainment, socioeconomic status, or any other factors that contribute to the diversity of each family and community; and,

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics endorses exclusive human milk feeding as the most developmentally appropriate form of nutrition for infants during the initial six months of life, with a recommendation for continued human milk feeding until the age of two years or beyond to enhance infant health, growth, and development; and,

WHEREAS, protecting the right to breastfeed and facilitating supportive work environments that enable comfortable and barrier-free breastfeeding is essential for reducing infant morbidity and mortality rates; and,

WHEREAS, breastfeeding plays a pivotal role in addressing the dual burden of malnutrition by ensuring food security, diminishing inequalities, and offering immunological protection for the youngest citizens of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois commends the efforts of advocates throughout the state who are committed to fostering individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding - the state joins these advocates in celebrating and raising awareness about the advantages of breastfeeding for all infants and their caregivers, both presently and in the future; and,

WHEREAS, prioritizing racial equity in breastfeeding is crucial for addressing systemic injustices that impede Black, Indigenous, Asian American, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Hispanic families from achieving their full breastfeeding potential - this focus is vital for mitigating disparities in birth outcomes, pregnancy-related morbidity, and mortality rates, and it is essential to illuminate the unique challenges confronting these communities;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 2025 as **National Breastfeeding Month** in Illinois and proclaim the following weeks: August 8-14 as **Indigenous Milk Medicine Week**, August 15-21 as **Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week**, August 25-31 as **Black Breastfeeding Week**, and September 1-7 as **Latina/x Breastfeeding Week**.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this SEVENTEENTH *day of* JULY, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SIXTH.

Alexi Giannoulis
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR