

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania celebrates the thirty-second anniversary of **BREASTFEEDING MONTH** with the 2024 global theme, “Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All,” which focuses on the survival, health, and well-being of all infants, children, and mothers by addressing the breastfeeding inequities that exist, especially in our marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is an essential source of nutrition and energy that can significantly improve both the long-term and short-term health, development, and well-being of infants, children, and mothers; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is an environmentally safe and affordable way of feeding babies and children that helps alleviate poverty and safeguards infant health and sustenance in times of adversity and humanitarian crises; and

WHEREAS, improving breastfeeding initiatives, advocacy, and resources are critical to the advancement of breastfeeding equity and reducing the inequalities that disproportionately impact marginalized mothers and families in our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is dedicated to fostering and protecting parent and breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and public spaces where every birthing person feels safe, supported, and encouraged on their breastfeeding journey; and

WHEREAS, by providing educational resources and equipment, raising awareness about breastfeeding challenges and benefits, and closing the gap in breastfeeding equity, our dedicated community leaders, advocates, healthcare professionals, organizations, and state agencies are fostering a Commonwealth where everyone has access to breastfeeding support, services, and opportunities.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim August 2024 to be

### BREASTFEEDING MONTH

in support of Pennsylvania’s breastfeeding families. I encourage everyone throughout our Commonwealth to promote, protect, and champion breastfeeding for everyone.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this first day of August two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro