In the Name and by the Authority of

THE STATE OF OHIO

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, followed by introduction of complementary foods and continued breastfeeding for two years or beyond, which provides the best possible start to life in all areas of development; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics communicates that maternal health benefits to breastfeeding include decreased risk of hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and breast, ovarian, endometrial, and thyroid cancers; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics states children who are breastfed have a decreased risk of SIDS, respiratory tract infections, leukemia, asthma, necrotizing enterocolitis, ear infections, diarrhea, and more; and

WHEREAS, infant nutrition is considered a public health issue, and hospitals, community agencies, coalitions, and others can work together to provide consistent and accurate information to encourage successful breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding can be an important element of health equity strategies to address infant and maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, increasing rates of breastfeeding initiation and supporting continuation of breastfeeding among Black families will help reduce disparities in breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, employers that provide workplace lactation support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health care costs, absenteeism, and turnover rates, and improved morale, job satisfaction, and productivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize August 2024 as

BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

on this 1st day of August 2024.

Mike DeWine
Governor

Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor