

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Supporting the wellbeing of children, the most precious natural resource and greatest hope for the future, is a priority in the Commonwealth; all available knowledge indicates that human milk optimally enhances the growth, development and well-being of the infant by providing the best possible nutrition, protection against specific infection and allergies, and the promotion of maternal and infant bonding; and

Whereas, Massachusetts recognizes that systemic and institutional racism create greater barriers for Black, Hispanic/Latino and Indigenous parents and that these residents are at higher risk for obesity and other nutrition-related conditions due to the lack of access to healthy food, health care and other essential determinants of health in the communities where they live; Breastfeeding is associated with positive health outcomes and may help reduce infant morbidity and mortality in Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Indigenous populations who are at higher risk of preterm birth and associated complications due to racism; and

Whereas, Breastfeeding is economical, promoting healthier mothers and babies and benefiting society through lower health care costs, a healthier workforce, stronger family bonds, and less environmental pollution at little or no cost; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health promote breastfeeding and support families in meeting their infant feeding goals through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

Whereas, There is a significant need for a targeted and accelerated approach to improve Black, Hispanic/Latino and Indigenous breastfeeding rates because these families face unique cultural barriers, misinformation, gaps in support, lack of diversity in the lactation field and insufficient promotional effort about the benefits of breastfeeding; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition (MBC) promotes breastfeeding through education of the health care community and coordination of breastfeeding organizations within Massachusetts, and recognizes breastfeeding-friendly establishments and employers in the Commonwealth; the number of women in the Commonwealth choosing to breastfeed their infants is increasing through the efforts of MBC, WIC, La Leche League, Nursing Mother's Council, lactation consultants and health care professionals,

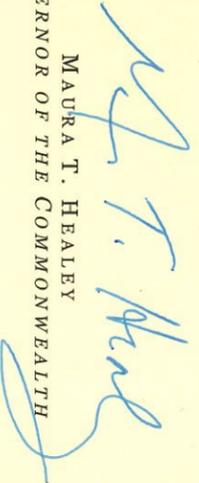
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
do hereby proclaim August 2024, to be,

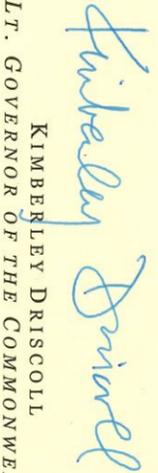
MASSACHUSETTS BREASTFEEDING MONTH

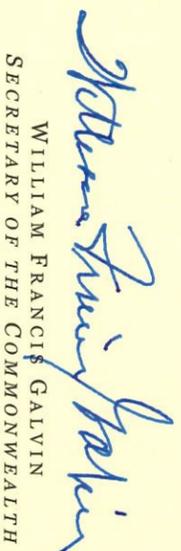
And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts