The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

BREASTFEEDING MONTH

AUGUST 2015

WHEREAS, *Mother's milk alone meets infant needs during the first six months of life, and in combination with family foods during the second six months of life or longer; and*

WHEREAS, *Exclusive breastfeeding is the normal way for mothers to feed babies. Besides providing optimal nutrition for growth and development, breastfeeding affords infants natural immunity against infection and allergies, helps eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, reduces child mortality, and improves maternal health; and*

WHEREAS, *Breastfeeding nurtures the mother-infant bond, while at the same time helping society go green! Breast milk ensures environmental sustainability. It is the only non-polluting, renewable baby food source; and*

WHEREAS, *Breastfeeding works! While the baby gets the protective health benefits of mother's milk, employers benefit through improved productivity and morale of staff, lower health insurance costs, and less missed work days by the parents. Employer breastfeeding support, allowing for milk expression breaks during the workday, enhances breastfeeding success; and*

WHEREAS, *In aligning with international, national, and Maryland goals, including those of the United States Surgeon General, the federal Healthcare Reform laws, and the Maryland Hospital Breastfeeding Policies, as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the majority of health care professionals, Maryland citizens are encouraged to breastfeed their children and support breastfeeding mothers and babies.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim AUGUST 2015 as BREASTFEEDING MONTH in Maryland, and call upon our citizens to join in this observance.

Given *Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,*
this **1st** *day of* **August**
Two Thousand ***and fifteen***

Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State