

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

BREASTFEEDING MONTH

AUGUST 2016

- WHEREAS,** *Breastfeeding is a key component of sustainable development. A mother's milk alone meets her infant's 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, the normal way for mothers to feed babies, provides optimal nutrition for growth and development, affords infants natural immunity against infection and allergies, eradicates extreme poverty and hunger, reduces child mortality, and improves maternal health; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Breastfeeding, a non-polluting, renewable baby food source, nurtures the mother-infant bond, while protecting our planet and ensuring environmental sustainability; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Employees milk expression breaks during the workday for breastfeeding mothers enhance breastfeeding success and help the economy, as employers reap benefits of improved staff productivity and morale, lower health insurance costs, and less missed work days by the parents; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland citizens are encouraged to breastfeed their children and collaborate to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding families by 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.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim AUGUST 2016 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 sixteen

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Byrd H. Lathrop
Lt. Governor

John C. Womack
Secretary of State