

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland
BREASTFEEDING MONTH
AUGUST 2013

- 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 month of life; 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, and lowers health risks for nursing mothers; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Breastfeeding nurtures the mother-infant bond, while at the same time helping society go green! Breast milk is the only non-polluting, renewable baby food source, saving families more than \$1500.00 a year; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Encircling the mother with breastfeeding support, from Healthcare Systems, Family and Social Networks, Workplaces and Employers, Government and Legislation, and Response to Crisis or Emergency, if needed, provides a vital foundation for mothers to successfully breastfeed their babies and continue to do so to meet healthcare recommendations and personal goals; and*
- WHEREAS,** *In alignment with the United States Surgeon General, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the majority of health care professionals, and specifically Step 10 of the Maryland Hospital Breastfeeding Policies, Maryland Citizens, regardless of their backgrounds, are encouraged to step forward and support breastfeeding mothers and babies.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim **AUGUST 2013** as **BREASTFEEDING MONTH** in Maryland and call upon the people of our state to join in supporting this observance.



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

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State