

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** human milk feeding for infant feeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for lifelong health and wellness; and
- Whereas,** the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of the mother and the child is continually reaffirmed by new research; and
- Whereas,** the American Academy of Pediatrics and World Health Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding for about the first six months of life, with continued breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods for two years or as long as mutually desired by the mother and child; and
- Whereas,** August is recognized as National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week is recognized August 1 – August 7; and
- Whereas,** National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week provide important opportunities to address barriers to human milk feeding faced by families across the United States and around the world; and
- Whereas,** recognizing and celebrating National Breastfeeding Month helps to build and reinforce the connections between human milk feeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives; and
- Whereas,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a biennial Breastfeeding Report Card which has consistently shown suboptimal breastfeeding initiation rates on the national and state levels, as well as substantial declines in continued and exclusive breastfeeding as babies grow; and
- Whereas,** the CDC data shows the vast majority of new parents want their infants to receive human milk but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings; and
- Whereas,** protecting and supporting human milk feeding helps to ensure infant nutrition security and immunologic protection for West Virginia's youngest people; and
- Whereas,** the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show that this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends for families and society.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 2026* as:

West Virginia Breastfeeding Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First Day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State