

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is recognized globally as a safe, sound, and sustainable practice benefiting mothers, children, and societies; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is a foundation of life, providing nutrition, food security, and poverty reduction; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding protects mothers' and infants' health and is a key health promotion and disease prevention strategy; and
- WHEREAS,** breast milk contains antibodies which reduce risk of illness, including diabetes, ear infections, and asthma, and breastfed babies have a reduced risk of obesity during childhood; and
- WHEREAS,** increasing evidence-based breastfeeding policies and practices in health care, communities, workplaces, and child care settings will change the landscape to be more supportive of exclusive breastfeeding; and
- WHEREAS,** mothers who give birth at Baby-Friendly® hospitals which follow the *Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding* are more likely to initiate exclusive breastfeeding, continue exclusive breastfeeding to six months, and sustain breastfeeding to at least one year of age; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is recommended as the optimal nutrition for babies and young children by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the U.S. Surgeon General, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Vermont Department of Health; and
- WHEREAS,** parental leave fosters establishment of exclusive breastfeeding, supports strong bonds and healthy outcomes for children; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont law supports breastfeeding in public and the workplace, and over 400 Vermont employers are recognized for creating family-friendly and breastfeeding-friendly worksites, supporting the health and wellness of their employees; and
- WHEREAS,** many opportunities exist in Vermont to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding mothers and infants.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim August 2018

BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 25th day of July, A.D. 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaye Pershing Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Jaye Pershing Johnson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs