

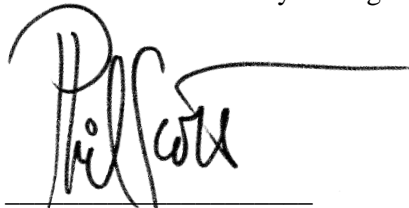
**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is recognized globally as a safe, sound, and sustainable practice benefiting parents, children, and societies; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is a foundation of life, providing nutrition and food security, reducing poverty and inequities, and giving every child the best start in life; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding protects mothers' and infants' health and is a key health promotion and disease prevention strategy; 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 and to continue exclusive breastfeeding to six months and to sustain breastfeeding to at least one year of age; and
- WHEREAS,** parental leave for postpartum parents and their partners promotes gender equality in the home, fosters establishment of exclusive breastfeeding, supports strong bonds and healthy outcomes for children; and
- WHEREAS,** increasing evidence-based breastfeeding policies and practices in health care, communities, workplaces, and early care and education settings will change the landscape to be more supportive of exclusive breastfeeding; 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 their partners and families; and
- WHEREAS,** many opportunities exist in Vermont to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding parents and infants.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2019 as

**BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION MONTH**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of August, A.D. 2019.

  
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Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittny L. Wilson

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs