

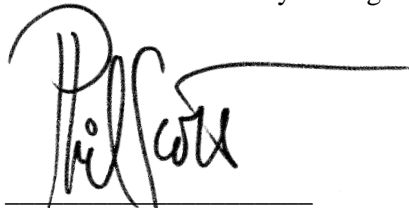
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- 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 2020 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. 2020.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittny L. Wilson

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs