

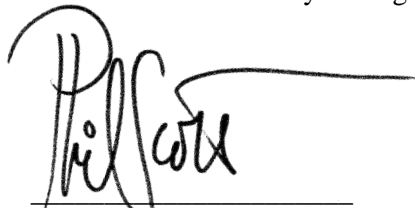
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is recognized globally as a safe 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 can be lifesaving during natural disasters and public health emergencies; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding protects the health of lactating parents and infants and is a key health promotion and disease prevention strategy; and
- WHEREAS,** the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding to six months and to continue breastfeeding to at least two years of age; and
- WHEREAS,** parents who give birth at Baby-Friendly[®] hospitals which follow the *Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding* are more likely to initiate breastfeeding, continue to feed exclusively to six months, and sustain breastfeeding for longer durations; 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 access to professional lactation support in the early postpartum period will help parents meet their feeding goals and reduce the need for supplements; and
- WHEREAS,** increasing evidence-based breastfeeding policies and practices in health care, communities, workplaces, 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 many 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 and chestfeeding parents and their infants.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2023 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. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor



Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs