

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding/chestfeeding is recognized globally as a biological norm for infant feeding and is a safe and sustainable practice benefiting parents, children, and societies; and
- WHEREAS,** feeding human milk is a foundation of life, providing nutrition and food security, reducing poverty and inequalities, and giving every child the best start in life; and
- WHEREAS,** the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends across the state and many times over for families, employers, and the government; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding/chestfeeding or feeding expressed milk, can be lifesaving during natural disasters and public health emergencies; and
- WHEREAS,** breastfeeding/chestfeeding 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 and the World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding to six months with continued breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods for two years or as long as mutually desired by the mother and child; and
- WHEREAS,** the Healthy People initiative consistently identifies breastfeeding as a national health priority; and
- WHEREAS,** parents who give birth at Baby-Friendly® hospitals which follow the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding are more likely to initiate feeding human milk, continue to feed exclusively to six months, and sustain breastfeeding for a longer duration; 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 health 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, 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 in the workplace, and many Vermont employers are recognized for creating family-friendly and breastfeeding-friendly worksites, supporting the health and wellness of their employees, their partners, and families.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2024 as

BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION MONTH
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 13th day of June, A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney J. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive.

Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs