



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Breastfeeding, defined as any infant feeding of human milk via body or pump, has many physical and mental health benefits for babies and their parents; and
- WHEREAS: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months of a child's life when feasible, with continued breastfeeding throughout the child's first two years, to optimize infant health, growth, and development; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Health, local health departments, and Tribal organizations throughout Minnesota promote and support breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding through nutrition programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and
- WHEREAS: While there has been progress in codifying and protecting the right to breastfeed, many people continue to face barriers in their communities, the healthcare system, and employment settings, including racial and ethnic discrimination, lack of knowledge and support, and physiological barriers; and
- WHEREAS: Black, Indigenous, and communities of color continue to work to dismantle stigma, promote breastfeeding, reclaim traditional knowledge and practices, and advocate for culturally safe, accessible lactation support to create healthier futures for all generations; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota recognizes August 25th - 31st as Black Breastfeeding Week to raise awareness and promote targeted approaches to improve Black breastfeeding rates; and
- WHEREAS: During Breastfeeding Awareness Month, it is important to recognize and celebrate the traditional knowledge, experience, and cultural significance of breastfeeding and milk medicine in Indigenous and Native American families. More than nourishment, milk medicine is a ceremony, cultural resilience, and life-giving force of sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota commends the community leaders and parental health and lactation advocates working to build individual, family, and community support for lactation, and joins them in celebrating and promoting awareness of the benefits of human milk for all babies and parents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 2026 as:

BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 31st day of July.



Tim Walz

GOVERNOR

Steve Pimm

SECRETARY OF STATE