

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than 89,000 births occur annually in Washington State, and breastmilk is widely acknowledged to be the most complete form of nutrition for infants, and the American Academy of Pediatrics considers breastfeeding to be "the ideal method of feeding and nurturing infants," and breastfeeding improves the immediate and long-term health of low birth weight babies; and

WHEREAS, breastmilk has thousands of living cells, hormones and antibodies to fight disease, and decreases the risk of several adverse health conditions in babies such as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and neonatal infections, which are leading causes of infant death; and

WHEREAS, Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native babies are more likely to have low birthweights and to die before their first birthdays compared to White babies, and breastfeeding, especially exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, provides equitable health benefits to our communities and can help bridge the health disparity gap; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding protects the long-term health of mothers by reducing risks for hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and breast and ovarian cancers, and protects the environment by preventing carbon emissions, excess water use, and excess waste in landfills; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding improves our economy by lowering healthcare costs, and breastfeeding-friendly work place policies benefit our businesses by increasing employee satisfaction, productivity, and retention; and

WHEREAS, protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding fosters the wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August, 2017, as

Breastfeeding Promotion Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11th day of July, 2017

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.
Governor Jay Inslee