

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** all major medical authorities recommend exclusive human milk feeding for the first six months of life, with continued human milk feeding for at least one year; and
- Whereas,** the United States Breastfeeding Committee designates August as *National Breastfeeding Month* and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action designates August 1-7 as *World Breastfeeding Week*; and
- Whereas,** *National Breastfeeding Month* focuses on the use of data and measurement to build and reinforce the connections between human milk feeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives; and
- Whereas,** *National Breastfeeding Month* and *World Breastfeeding Week* provide important opportunities to address barriers to human milk feeding faced by families across the United States and around the world; and
- Whereas,** human milk feeding is the biological norm for infant feeding and a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness; and
- Whereas,** the evidence of the value of human milk feeding to the health of the birthing parent and the child is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by new research; and
- Whereas,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes an annual Breastfeeding Report Card which has consistently shown suboptimal breastfeeding initiation rates as well as substantial declines in continued and exclusive breastfeeding as babies grow; and
- Whereas,** there are substantial racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; and
- Whereas,** at the time of this Resolution, a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analysis of birth certificate data reports that among infants born in 2019, only 59 percent of infants in West Virginia were ever breastfed, with a 30-percentage point difference in breastfeeding rates between racial groups; and
- Whereas,** protecting and supporting human milk feeding is essential to ensuring infant nutrition security and immunologic protection for West Virginia's youngest people.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 2023* as:

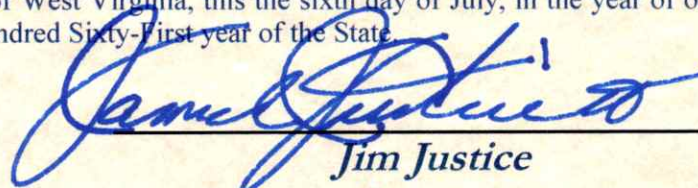
## *National Breastfeeding Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State