



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the first week of August highlighted as a week to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and the positive long-term effects on the growth and development of infants; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee laws permit mothers to breastfeed in any location, public or private, prohibit local governments from criminalizing or restricting breastfeeding, and specify that the act of breastfeeding shall not be considered public indecency; and

**WHEREAS**, national estimates suggest that if 90 percent of U.S. babies were breastfed exclusively for six months, the nation would save ~13 billion per year in health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding is recognized by Tennessee Department of Health and major medical organizations as the preferred method of infant feeding; and

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding promotes overall health, growth and development, and helps to prevent infections during infancy, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses in childhood and later adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, mothers benefit from breastfeeding as it not only advances postpartum recovery and return to pre-pregnancy weight, but decreases the risk of ovarian, uterine and endometrial cancers, as well as anemia, diabetes and osteoporosis; and

**WHEREAS**, women with infants and children are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. labor force, yet women cite returning to work as one of the primary reasons for not continuing to breastfeed to six months of age; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Health recognizes it is vital for families to make informed choices about the health and care of infants and supports increased efforts to encourage breastfeeding;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 1-4, 2023 as

*Breastfeeding Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this second day of June 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Ju Dargatzis*

Secretary of State

