



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota Department of Health data shows that 91 percent of white women breastfeed their infants, versus 78 percent of African-American women; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, African-American babies with U.S.-born mothers experience an infant mortality rate that is 3 times higher than the rate for white babies; and
- WHEREAS: The CDC estimates a higher rate of breastfeeding by African-American women could reduce black infant mortality rates by up to 50 percent; and
- WHEREAS: Health professionals strongly recommend breastfeeding, because breast milk provides countless benefits to nursing infants such as antibodies, easy digestion and reduced risk of dangerous infections associated with bottle-feeding in pre-term infants; and
- WHEREAS: Studies show breastfeeding reduces the risk of Type II diabetes, ear infections, childhood leukemia, and childhood obesity; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the importance of breastfeeding, there has been a large disparity in breastfeeding rates between white women and black women for more than forty years; and
- WHEREAS: There are unique cultural barriers and a complex history and historical trauma connected to breastfeeding in the black community, which have created a dialogue around it; and
- WHEREAS: In 2012, three African-American women founded Black Breastfeeding Week as an annual awareness campaign for healthier moms and babies; and
- WHEREAS: Black Breastfeeding Awareness Day in Minnesota promotes awareness of the critical role of breastfeeding in improving family health and reducing infant mortality rates in the black community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, August 31, 2017, as:

BLACK BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS DAY

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 August.




GOVERNOR