

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois, along with the World Health Organization and the United States Breastfeeding Committee, acknowledge the benefits of breastfeeding for infants and their parents; and,

WHEREAS, promoting and supporting all milk-feeding families regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that makes every family and community unique; and,

WHEREAS, data suggests over 77 percent of American Indian or Alaskan Natives initiated breastfeeding their infant and the State of Illinois is committed to recognizing its diverse communities and the importance of promoting breastfeeding for all its residents, including those of Native descent; and,

WHEREAS, studies confirm that exclusive human milk feeding is recommended as the most developmentally appropriate nourishment for infants of all nationalities for the first six months of life, with continued human milk feeding until two years or beyond to optimize infant health, growth, and development; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential to have a week that is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native and Indigenous families, and using this week to focus on breastfeeding to bring to the forefront the needs of the Native and Indigenous families, as well as work toward our common goal of supporting milk feeding in each unique community; and,

WHEREAS, breastfeeding plays an important role in managing the double burden of malnutrition by providing food security, reducing inequalities, and providing immunologic protection for its Native communities;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 8th-14th 2024, as **Indigenous Milk Medicine Breastfeeding Week.***

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

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-NINTH day of JULY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FOUR, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR