



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 human 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, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive human milk feeding as the most developmentally appropriate nourishment for infants for the first six months of life, to continue human milk feeding until two years of age for optimal infant health, growth, and development; and,

WHEREAS, research suggest mothers who identify as Hispanic initiate breastfeeding at high rates (86.8 percent), however, exclusive continuation of breastfeeding through six months is less common; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing there are socioeconomic disparities that may require a parent to return to work soon after birth and contribute to shorter breastfeeding duration; and,

WHEREAS, acknowledging the challenges and barriers that Latina/x parents face when accessing lactation assistance, including the lack of access to culturally sensitive support and health care in their preferred language, is essential; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential to have a week that brings awareness to the barriers that are unique to Latina/x communities while celebrating the culture and resilience of the Latina/x families and supporting their efforts to claim their traditions of breastfeeding;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 5-11, 2024, as **Latina/X Breastfeeding Week** (also known as *Semana De La Lactancia Latina*).*

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 SIXTH day of AUGUST, 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