



In the Name and by the Authority of

THE STATE OF OHIO



WHEREAS, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics provides the best possible start to life in all areas of development; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides countless benefits to the nursing infant including easy digestion, production of antibodies, and reduced risk of infections and childhood obesity, and offers faster recovery from birth and reduced risk for postpartum hemorrhage and uterine cancer to the breastfeeding mother; and

WHEREAS, infant nutrition is considered a public health issue, and, therefore, is important for hospitals, businesses, community agencies, and coalitions to work together to provide consistent and accurate information to help ensure successful breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, the rates of breastfeeding duration and exclusivity are lower among black infants than among white infants; and

WHEREAS, increasing rates of breastfeeding initiation and supporting continuation of breastfeeding among black women will help reduce disparities in breastfeeding duration; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is a public health imperative that is central to successful health equity strategies for combating the maternal and infant mortality crisis; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio joins the United States Breastfeeding Committee in the belief that Ohio breastfeeding rates will improve if social policy and community norms support breastfeeding mothers and babies.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, **Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio**, do hereby recognize August 2022 as

BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

on this 1st day of August 2022;

Mike DeWine
Governor



Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor