



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, major medical authorities recommend exclusive human milk feeding for the first six months of life, with continued human milk feeding for at least one year; and*

*WHEREAS, breastfeeding awareness initiatives focus on the use of data to build and reinforce the connections between human milk feeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics, as well as providing important opportunities to address barriers to human milk feeding faced by families around the world; and*

*WHEREAS, human milk feeding is the biological norm for infant feeding and a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness with scientifically proven benefits to the birthing parent and the child; and*

*WHEREAS, there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; and*

*WHEREAS, a recent CDC analysis of birth certificate data reports that among infants born in 2019, 86.1% of infants in New Mexico were ever breastfed, with a 9.6% point difference in breastfeeding rates between racial groups; and*

*WHEREAS, a majority of new parents want their infants to receive human milk but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings, while others may choose not to breastfeed or are unable to do so; however, all parents benefit from access to education on infant nutrition and wellness; and*

*WHEREAS, protecting and supporting human milk feeding is essential to ensuring critical food security and immunologic protection for New Mexico's youngest people; and*

*WHEREAS, the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show that this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends across the country and many times over for families, employers, and the government:*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim August 2021 as:*

### ***“New Mexico Breastfeeding Month”***

*August 8 through August 14, 2021 as:*

### ***“Native American Breastfeeding Week”***

*August 15 through August 21, 2021 as:*

### ***“Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week”***

*and August 22 through August 28, 2021 as:*

### ***“Black Breastfeeding Week”***

*throughout the state of New Mexico.*

*Attest:*

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver*  
Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State

*Done at the Executive Office this*  
*8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal*  
*of the State of New Mexico.*

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

