



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of all Virginians is of the utmost importance to the happiness, vitality, and prosperity of the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is a public health imperative and a central health equity strategy to address root causes of inequality; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding strengthens the bond between parent and child, is associated with decreased childhood maltreatment, is physiologically tailored to meet infants' maturing nutritional and developmental needs, and helps prevent a variety of health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Virginia enacted legislation directing employers to provide reasonable accommodations as it pertains to pregnancy, childbirth, related medical conditions, and lactation; and

WHEREAS, local health departments promote breastfeeding in communities through the implementation of the Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department Ten Step Process; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth and all state agencies are encouraged to work collaboratively to promote breastfeeding, and protect and support breastfeeding parents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize August 2021 as **VIRGINIA BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth