



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL WIC BREASTFEEDING WEEK

August 1-7, 2016

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS human milk provides the ideal balance of nutrients for an infant's growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease; protects mothers' and infants' health; and may reduce the risk of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating State health departments, Territories, and Tribal organizations promote and support exclusive breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and other nutrition assistance programs; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture celebrates WIC local agencies receiving the WIC Loving Support Award of Excellence for their breastfeeding promotion activities; and

WHEREAS WIC joins professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week on August 1-7 of each year to collaboratively raise awareness of the numerous benefits of breastfeeding; to strengthen individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding; to further strategies that protect optimal breastfeeding practices; and to encourage increased breastfeeding rates;

NOW, THEREFORE, in appreciation of breastfeeding mothers and of all the dedicated volunteers, professionals, communities, and organizations who support their efforts, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2016, as National WIC Breastfeeding Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of June 2016, the two-hundred fortieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over the printed name and title.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary