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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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PROCLAMATION  
by the  
Governor of the State of California

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding is an important part of preventive health care, providing mothers with short and long-term benefits, including decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, compelling scientific evidence indicates that mother's milk provides infants with nutrients necessary for optimum growth and development, protects them against specific infections and allergies, and has positive long-term effects on their health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, despite its numerous benefits, only a small fraction of the State's infants are breastfed throughout their first year of life; and

**WHEREAS**, California law protects a mother's right to breastfeed in public, addressing some of the barriers that prevent women from breastfeeding their infants longer; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's World Breastfeeding Week celebration encourages communities and governments to protect, promote and support the right to breastfeed; and

**WHEREAS**, public health organizations throughout the Golden State are working to increase awareness about the right of women to breastfeed and the benefits of supporting breastfeeding women who return to work;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GRAY DAVIS**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2000 as "Breastfeeding Awareness Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 5th day of July 2000.



*Gray Davis*

Governor of California

ATTEST:

*Bill Jones*

Secretary of State