GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

PROCLAMATION

Breastfeeding forms the most basic bond between mother and baby and is a foundation for lifelong health and wellness.

Throughout their lives, breastfeeding can offer children protection against serious health conditions, including obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. Breastfeeding also saves lives by reducing the incidence of life-threatening cancers in women and preventing premature death in infants.

In addition, it is estimated that California would save $475 million annually in health care costs and lost wages if only 50 percent of mothers breastfed exclusively for six months.

During August, organizations throughout our Golden State will promote the importance of breastfeeding. This year, in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week – August 1 through August 7 – the California Department of Health Services will collaborate with local groups to support, educate and motivate mothers to breastfeed exclusively for the first six months of their babies' lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2005, as "Breastfeeding Awareness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 30th day of June 2005.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Bruce McPherson
SECRETARY OF STATE

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