

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Securing the welfare of our children, the most precious natural resource and greatest hope for the future, is a priority in the Commonwealth; and

**Whereas** All available knowledge indicates that human milk optimally enhances the growth, development and well-being of the infant by providing the best possible nutrition, protection against specific infection and allergies, and the promotion of maternal and infant bonding; and

**Whereas** Breastfeeding is economical, promoting healthier mothers and babies and benefiting society through lower health care costs, a healthier workforce, stronger family bonds, and less environmental pollution at little or no cost; and

**Whereas** The United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health promote breastfeeding through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and

**Whereas** The Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition (MBC) promotes breastfeeding through education of the health care community and coordination of breastfeeding organizations within Massachusetts, and recognizes breastfeeding-friendly establishments and employers in the Commonwealth; and

**Whereas** The number of women in the Commonwealth choosing to breastfeed their infants is increasing through the efforts of MBC, WIC, La Leche League, lactation consultants and health care professionals,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 2012 to be,

## MASSACHUSETTS BREASTFEEDING MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, seventeenth day of July, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts