EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

Breastfeeding is the natural way to feed an infant and is the foundation for lasting health and wellness. Infants who are breast-fed receive protection against serious health conditions, including respiratory infections, allergies, asthma and obesity. In addition, breastfeeding saves lives by reducing the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and life-threatening cancers in women.

To achieve a healthy California, we must create an environment that encourages healthy eating, regular physical activity and responsible parenting choices. A healthy environment includes support for breastfeeding mothers and infants.

A united effort is needed from business, community and government leaders to support breastfeeding. Businesses can ensure that working mothers have an appropriate place to use a breast pump when they are separated from their infants. Communities can support existing law that authorizes mothers to feed their babies in any public location. Government leaders can provide guidance and implement policies to promote this healthy practice as the preferred method for infant nutrition.

In conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week August 1 through 7, the California Department of Health Services will collaborate with local organizations to encourage mothers to initiate breastfeeding and to continue the routine with the introduction of appropriate solid foods during the first year of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2006 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 first day of August 2006.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA
Attest:

Bruce McPherson
SECRETARY OF STATE