

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### BREASTFEEDING MONTH

August 2009

*WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is committed to protecting and promoting the health and well-being for all the citizens of the Commonwealth; and*

*WHEREAS, breastfeeding is a public health priority, especially for its potential to reduce rates of obesity, Type II diabetes, certain cancers, and infectious diseases; and*

*WHEREAS, breastfeeding is the natural way to feed an infant, laying a foundation for life-long health and wellness for both mother and child. For optimal health, exclusive breastfeeding is all that is nutritionally needed for the first six months and should continue when babies start eating other foods; and*

*WHEREAS, the global theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2009 is "Breastfeeding: A Vital Emergency Response. Are you ready?" which advocates for active promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding before, during, and after an emergency occurs; and*

*WHEREAS, breastfeeding for a year or more provides a shield that protects infants and young children in an emergency. Human milk is the one safe and secure source of food, readily available, providing active protection against illness and disease. Breastfeeding is a safety net when a disaster strikes and is life-saving for infants and young children in a crisis situation; and*

*WHEREAS, including breastfeeding in any family and community emergency preparedness plan insures that mothers with infants and young children have a safe place to breastfeed and seek or provide mother-to-mother support; and*

*WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Coalition support all private and public efforts to promote, protect and support breastfeeding as the cultural norm.*

*THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim August 2009 as BREASTFEEDING MONTH in Pennsylvania and encourage all citizens across the Commonwealth to recognize the importance of breastfeeding in Pennsylvania as a priority for public health.*



*Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-first day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-fourth.*

*Edward G. Rendell*

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor