



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL WIC BREASTFEEDING WEEK
August 1-7, 2015

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

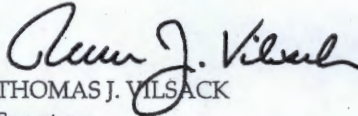
WHEREAS human milk provides the ideal balance of nutrients for an infant's growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease; protects mothers' and infants' health; promotes mother, infant, and family bonding; and may reduce the risk of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture and cooperating State health departments and Tribal organizations promote and support exclusive breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and other nutrition assistance programs; and

WHEREAS WIC agencies join professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week on August 1-7 of each year to collaboratively promote awareness of the numerous benefits of breastfeeding; to build individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding; to further strategies that protect optimal breastfeeding practices; and to encourage increased breastfeeding rates;

NOW, THEREFORE, in appreciation of breastfeeding mothers and of all the dedicated volunteers, professionals, communities, and organizations who support their efforts, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2015, as National WIC Breastfeeding Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of May 2015, the two-hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary