STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, August 1 through August 7, 2014 is recognized as World Breastfeeding Week-a global initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and its important and positive long-term effects on the growth and development of infants; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is recognized by the Indiana State Department of Health and major medical organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)and the World Health Organization (WHO), as the preferred method of infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, national estimates suggest that if 90 percent of U.S. babies were breastfed exclusively for six months, the nation would save $13 billion per year in healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes overall health, growth and development, and it helps to prevent infections during infancy, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses in childhood and, later, in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, mothers benefit from breastfeeding as it not only advances postpartum recovery and return to pre-pregnancy weight, but it also decreases the risk of ovarian, uterine and endometrial cancers, as well as anemia, diabetes and osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, the state of Indiana also recognizes this week the legacy left behind by Terry Jo Curtis, one of the first African-American board-certified lactation consultants in Indiana, after her sudden and heartbreaking passing this past Mother's Day; and

WHEREAS, Terry Jo Curtis's tireless and selfless contributions to mothers and babies in the state of Indiana are evident through the founding of the Indiana Black Breastfeeding Coalition and the Fathers Supporting Breastfeeding group, and her legacy leaves others with the challenge of carrying on her work to raise awareness for breastfeeding as the biological norm and ideal nutrition source for Hoosier babies; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana State Department of Health recognizes that it is vital for Hoosier families to have access to accurate breastfeeding information to make informed choices about the health and care of infants, and our state supports increased efforts by hospitals, non-profit organizations, and health care providers to encourage breastfeeding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael R. Pence, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2014 as

BREASTFEEDING WEEK

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of State. Done at the City of Indianapolis, this 1st day of August in the year of our Lord 2014 and of the Independence of the United States 238.

BY THE GOVERNOR: Michael R. Pence