WHEREAS: There are many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for both babies and mothers; and

WHEREAS: There is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native women, which is a reflection of the unique barriers faced by Native women in health care, employment, and other areas. As a result, these barriers perpetuate racial disparities in breastfeeding rates; and

WHEREAS: We recognize the importance of reducing racial disparities in health care and birth outcomes and of promoting diversity in the lactation field; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program studies existing disparities in breastfeeding among Native women and works to develop culturally appropriate services for their distinct needs; and

WHEREAS: While recognizing August as National Breastfeeding Month, it is necessary to dedicate Native Breastfeeding Week to prioritize and celebrate the experiences of Native families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of August 8-14, 2021 as:

NATIVE BREASTFEEDING WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 6th day of July.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE