***Executive Proclamation***

***State of South Dakota***

***Office of the Governor***

**WHEREAS**, Optimal nutrition and food security are vital to ensuring proper growth and development for lifelong health during the early months and years of life; and,

**WHEREAS**, Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infant's life, and continued breastfeeding, along with the addition of appropriate complementary foods at six months and beyond, ensures that both mother and infant receive maximum health benefits; and,

**WHEREAS**, Human milk is perfectly designed for a baby’s nutritional and immunological needs, is natural and promotes bonding between child and mother; and,

**WHEREAS**, Human milk provides many lifelong positive effects, such as reducing the risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and hypertension for the mother and reducing the risk of SIDS, lower respiratory infections, dental caries, childhood obesity and other chronic and infectious diseases for the child; and,

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding is the foundation of improving the health and well-being of mothers and children in South Dakota; and,

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota joins professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide in celebrating World Breastfeeding Awareness Week 2018 to collaboratively raise awareness of the numerous benefits of breastfeeding; to strengthen individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding; and to celebrate the 2018 theme, “Breastfeeding: Foundation of Life”:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, DENNIS DAUGAARD**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2018 as

**BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS WEEK**

in South Dakota, and I urge all South Dakotans to support breastfeeding-friendly communities and initiatives with the goal to promote, protect and improve the health of babies in our state.