

PROCLAMATION ~ August 17, 2021

WHEREAS, human milk feeding is the biological norm for infant feeding and a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, all major medical authorities recommend exclusive human milk feeding for the first six months of life, with continued human milk feeding for at least one year; and

WHEREAS, protecting and supporting human milk feeding is essential to ensure critical food security and immunologic protection for our youngest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Lycoming County recognizes as a human right access to parent-friendly and breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the great majority of new parents want their infants to receive human milk but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, National Breastfeeding Month in August provides an opportunity to identify and address racial inequities and barriers to human milk feeding within Lycoming County with recognition of World Breastfeeding Week, Native Breastfeeding Week, Asian-American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week, and Black Breastfeeding Week; and

WHEREAS, the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show that this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends across the county and many times over for families, employers, and the government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Lycoming County Commissioners, designate August 2021 as “Breastfeeding Month” and support policies and programs to ensure that all lactating parents can access a full range of appropriate support from health care institutions, insurers, employers, early care and education providers, researchers, and government entities.

Lycoming County Commissioners

Scott L. Metzger, Chairman

Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman

Richard Mirabito, Secretary