

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the month of September is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, and October is SIDS, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, and it is imperative to increase people's awareness about the high rates of infant deaths and to encourage Ohio citizens, communities, and organizations to get involved in the fight to make sure all infants live to their first birthday and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 Ohio's overall Infant Mortality Rate of 7.7 deaths per 1000 live births is higher than that of most other U.S. States and exceeds the national rate of 6.14 deaths; and

WHEREAS, low birth weight is one of the main contributors to infant mortality and disproportionately affects low income communities, with the death rate for African American babies nearly three times higher than that of Caucasian infants; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio in 2010 a total of 109 infants died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); and

WHEREAS, in Ohio over the five year period of 2005-2009, there were 857 sleep-related infant deaths; therefore, more than 3 infant deaths each week were sleep-related, and many of these deaths were preventable; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio remains committed to supporting programs such as The Columbus Public Health *Caring for 2* and The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies, which aim to provide critical services to women and their infants and strives to have an impact on the high rates of infant mortality that are prevalent in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize September 2012 as

**INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS
MONTH**

and October 2012 as

**SIDS, PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS
AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the State of Ohio, and encourage all Ohioans to research and promote preventative measures to ensure the safety of infants everywhere.

On this 1st day of September, 2012;



John R. Kasich
Governor

