



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Infant mortality is the death of a liveborn infant before age one. The infant mortality rate – the number of infant deaths per 1,000 babies born alive – is an important measure of the health and well-being of a population; and
- WHEREAS: An average 320 infants die in Minnesota every year— enough children for approximately 16 kindergarten classrooms in any given year; and
- WHEREAS: All babies born in Minnesota deserve a healthy start and opportunities to survive, thrive, and develop; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota achieved an overall infant mortality rate of 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020, which is lower than the national average. However, disparities, especially for Black or African American and American Indian families, continue to pose significant public health challenges; and
- WHEREAS: Infants born to American Indian and Black or African American mothers have historically died at more than two times the rate of infants born to white mothers; and
- WHEREAS: Infant mortality is a complex problem that requires a response from across many sectors and disciplines to address conditions that negatively affect birth outcomes. Maternal health and well-being before, during, and after pregnancy is impacted by housing and job insecurity, environmental toxins, lack of social support and community connections, and a lack of access to health care; and
- WHEREAS: Systemic racism and discrimination against Black or African American, American Indian, and other people of color directly contribute to inequities in infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS: Infant Mortality Awareness Week provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, government entities, health care systems, community partners, and coalitions to promote awareness and education about infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS: The death of any infant before reaching their first birthday is one too many.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2023, as:

INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS 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 8th day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE