

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 2021, 315 infants in Arkansas died before the first birthday, and nearly 26 percent of those deaths were sudden, unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs), a majority of which were sleep related; and

WHEREAS: Black non-Hispanic infants were twice as likely to die from an SUID compared to White non-Hispanic infants; and

WHEREAS: Data for 2016-2020 shows that Arkansas has the third highest rate of SUIDs in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Infants that sleep alone, on their back, and in a crib are much less likely to die suddenly and unexpectedly; and

WHEREAS: It is recommended that infants should always sleep alone, on their back, and in a crib, bassinet, or pack 'n play with only a firm mattress and tightly fitted sheet; and

WHEREAS: The crib, bassinet, or pack 'n play should be safety-approved with no bumper pads, pillows, loose blankets, comforters, or other soft items; and

WHEREAS: Compliance with these recommendations by an infant's caregivers can decrease that infant's risk of dying; and

WHEREAS: Hospitals, state agencies, community organizations, and other partners are crucial in promoting compliance with safe sleep recommendations; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to promoting efforts in reducing these preventable sleep-related deaths among infants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 25th, 2022, as

ARKANSAS INFANT SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I urge my fellow citizens to join together to promote infant safe sleep practices.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2022.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thurston".
John Thurston, Secretary of State