

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 2018, approximately 281 infants in Arkansas died before their first birthday, and nearly one-fifth of the deaths were sudden, unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs), a majority of which were sleep-related; and

WHEREAS: Black infants had a 27% higher risk of sleep-related deaths compared to white infants; and

WHEREAS: The sudden, unexpected death of an infant younger than one year of age may or may not have a known cause even after a complete investigation; 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 September 2020, as

ARKANSAS INFANT SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH

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 11th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor