



## 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: On average, 320 infants die in the state every year— enough children to fill 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 to their fullest potential; and
- WHEREAS: While Minnesota's overall infant mortality rate of 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 is lower than the national average, disparities, especially for Black/African American and American Indian families, are evident, persistent, and a significant public health issue; and
- WHEREAS: Infants born to American Indian and Black/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 multi-factorial, complex societal 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, including 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/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, 2022, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE