

PROCLAMATION by the GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

**Whereas**, Kansas' rate of infant mortality is 7.25 per 1,000 live births and the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is 129.4 per 100,000 live births;

**Whereas**, the infant mortality rate is a basic indicator for population health, primarily pointing at the quality of perinatal and infant care;

**Whereas**, 52 of the infant deaths in Kansas can be attributed to sleep related deaths and SIDS;

**Whereas**, the Kansas legislature is greatly concerned about infant mortality and the devastating impact on Kansas families;

**Whereas**, the tragedy of SIDS occurs on all socio-economic levels and ethnicities, although the rate of SIDS is two times greater for Native American and African American infants;

**Whereas**, SIDS cannot be predicted or prevented, research has shown that the risk of SIDS and sleep related deaths can be reduced by placing infants to sleep alone on their backs in a safety approved crib;

**Whereas**, infant safe sleep has helped infant caregivers receive education and information and continues to address the disparity in infant mortality rates;

**Whereas**, following the ABCs of safe sleep (Alone, on the Back, and in a Crib) can help parents and caregivers ensure the safety and survival of their infants; and

**Whereas**, SIDS Awareness Month will raise awareness and promote the ABCs of safe sleep throughout the state to spare families the tragedy of Sudden Infant Death;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR of the STATE of KANSAS, do hereby proclaim October 2010 as

***Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month***

In Kansas and urge all Kansas citizens to become more aware of this devastating syndrome, promote the ABCs of safe sleep, and to lend their courage, caring and support to all the families who have experienced the tragedy of Sudden Infant Death.

DONE at the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 1st day of October, A.D. 2010.