



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is a subset of infant deaths that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly before age one from causes that are not immediately obvious; and

WHEREAS, SUID is a leading cause of infant mortality annually in the United States and the third leading cause of infant deaths in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, currently, there is not a definitive cause or cure for SUID; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's SUID rate has consistently increased over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, SUID deaths affect families regardless of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic background, national origin, or education level, though, there are populations at increased risk for experiencing an infant death from SUID; and

WHEREAS, risk factors for SUID can be reduced by promoting safe sleep practices and environments; and

WHEREAS, infants under the age of one should always be placed to sleep on their backs, in a Consumer Product Safety Commission approved crib, without blankets, bumper pads, pillows or stuffed animals; and

WHEREAS, infants under the age of one should not share beds with parents, siblings, caregivers, pets or anyone under the influence of drugs, alcohol or cigarette smoke; and

WHEREAS, unsafe sleep environments include bed sharing, being placed to sleep on a sofa, in an infant swing, on a blow-up mattress or waterbed or periods of extended sleep in a car seat; and

WHEREAS, parents, families, child care providers, hospitals or any provider administering care to an infant can raise awareness and engage in safe sleep promotion and practices by remembering the A-B-C's – Alone, Back, Crib – of safe sleep every time an infant sleeps or naps; and

WHEREAS, the month of October has been designated as SUID Awareness Month to raise public awareness and offer education about reducing infant death from unsafe sleep; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is dedicated to the well-being of women, infants and families and recognizes that SUID and infant mortality from unsafe sleep environments is a public health issue that must be addressed;

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health pledges its continued commitment to improve the rate of SUID deaths in infants under one year of age by providing consistent safe sleep education statewide, modeling safe sleep environments and reducing infant loss associated with unsafe sleep practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 2018, as

Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama and I urge all citizens of this great state to take steps in providing a safe and healthy start to life for every newborn child.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of
Montgomery on the 29th day of August 2018.*

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor