



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The infant mortality rate is an important measure of the health and well-being of a population; and
- WHEREAS: In 2022, Minnesota's overall infant mortality rate was lower than the national average at 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. On average, 326 infants die in Minnesota every 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: Disparities in pre- and post-natal care and community support — especially for Black and American Indian families — are evident, persistent, and a significant public health issue; and
- WHEREAS: Infants born to American Indian and Black mothers have historically died at more than two times the rate of infants born to white mothers; and
- WHEREAS: Infant mortality is a complex societal problem that requires a collaborative response from multiple sectors and disciplines to address conditions that negatively affect birth outcomes. Maternal health and well-being before, during, and after pregnancy is impacted by housing and job security, the environment, social support and community connections, and access to health care; and
- WHEREAS: Systemic racism and discrimination against Black, American Indian, and other people of color directly contribute to inequities in infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS: The death of any infant is one too many; and
- WHEREAS: Infant Mortality Week provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, government entities, health care facilities, community groups, and coalitions to promote awareness about infant mortality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim September 15-21, 2024, 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 6th day of August.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Pimm in black ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE