



Proclamation

WHEREAS, infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before it reaches his or her first birthday; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 31st among the 50 states in the rate of infant mortality; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Illinois infant mortality rate was 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, which remains relatively unchanged since 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the current infant mortality rate is a significant and troubling public health issue, especially for African-American families, Native-American families, and Hispanic families; and,

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate among African-American women is triple that of Caucasian women, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health and other stakeholders are committed to addressing infant mortality by focusing on preconception and interconception health, prenatal care access and quality, safe sleep, social determinants of health, and perinatal regionalization; and,

WHEREAS, a set of goals and objectives with 10-year targets designed to guide national health promotion and disease prevention, known as Healthy People 2020, includes an objective regarding a decrease in the rate of infant mortality; and,

WHEREAS, September 1, 2018, is the beginning of a period of several months during which there will be numerous national and state observances that relate to the issue of infant mortality, including the observance of October as Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Awareness Month and November as Prematurity Awareness Month;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as **INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, in order to improve birth and infant outcomes, reduce health inequities, and improve the health of all Illinois women, babies, and families so that no parent will have to endure the tragedy of infant death.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this _____ TENTH _____ day of _____ AUGUST _____, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_____ EIGHTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundredth.*

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR