Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is heartbreaking, and can happen in any family regardless of income, education or community; and

Whereas SUID is the leading cause of death among infants 1 – 11 months old, and is often associated with preventable unsafe infant sleep practices and environments; and

Whereas Research shows that a child's brain grows rapidly during safe sleep; and

Whereas Babies should always be put to sleep on their backs, alone in their own crib or bassinet; with no bumpers, pillows, quilts, comforters or other soft surfaces in the crib; and

Whereas Moms or dads should not bed-share with their babies and anyone under the influence of drugs, alcohol or smoking should not be resting with a baby; and

Whereas The Executive Office of Health and Human Services has convened an interagency Task Force on Infant Safe Sleep to educate the public about safe sleep practices, and provide resources to families to help create a safe environment; and

Whereas Infant unsafe sleeping is a public health issue in Massachusetts and across the country, and together we can help by ensuring any person caring for a baby is using safe sleep practices,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 2014, to be,

INFANT SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of September, in the year two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts