



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, an average of 22 infant lives are lost in New Mexico each year due to Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), and more than 8 in 10 of these are identified as preventable due to unsafe sleep factors; and*

*WHEREAS, SUID rates in New Mexico are representative of inequities: from 2010 to 2019, the Black/African American population ratio (2.7 deaths per 1,000 live births) being 3 times higher than rates among whites and Hispanic/Latinos (.80/1,000), and more than two times higher than rates among American Indian/Alaska Native (1.0/1,000); and*

*WHEREAS, babies can suffocate when sleeping in an unsafe environment such as a couch, futon or armchair, in a car seat or infant lounging device, and/or due to items in the sleep space such as blankets, pillows, or soft objects; and*

*WHEREAS, infants should be placed to sleep on their backs, on a firm, flat, non-inclined surface, ideally, in their parent/caregiver's room, in a space free of items such as toys, pillows or blankets, and the infant should be dressed appropriately to avoid overheating; and*

*WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is a risk factor for sleep-related death and parents/caregivers are encouraged to seek help to provide a smoke free environment for their infants and children; and*

*WHEREAS, parents, grandparents, other relatives, childcare providers, and anyone caring for an infant are encouraged to learn more about safe sleep practices in order to reduce sleep-related infant deaths; and*

*WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Health, working collaboratively with partners throughout the state, raise awareness and promote safe infant sleep practices.*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as:*

## **“Safe Sleep Awareness Month”**

*throughout the state of New Mexico.*

Attest:

*Done at the Executive Office this  
27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.*

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver*  
Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal  
of the State of New Mexico.*



*Michelle Lujan Grisham*  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor