



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Florida is dedicated to educating families on best safety practices to ensure children grow up healthy and happy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis supports all protections for life, and encourages the best practices to ensure child fatality is prevented; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for Florida babies under the age of one is unsafe sleep conditions; and

WHEREAS, preliminary data shows that Florida families lost 74 infants in 2020 due to sleep-related causes; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families is committed to preventing and raising the awareness of child fatalities through data and community research; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics and other experts agree it is safest for babies to sleep by themselves, on their back, in a crib without toys, blankets, or pillows; and

WHEREAS, it is best for babies to sleep in a crib in the parent's room for the first year of their life and never on soft surfaces like couches and full-size beds; and

WHEREAS, it is unsafe for parents to share beds or sleeping surfaces with their babies; and

WHEREAS, the "ABCs of safe sleep" is a helpful reminder for parents and caretakers to remember it's safest for babies to sleep Alone, on their Back, in a Crib; and

WHEREAS, parents and caretakers are encouraged to follow the ABCs of safe sleep every time a baby sleeps, whether it's for a nap or overnight; and

WHEREAS, creating a safe sleep environment is a significant way to protect babies from harm.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing October 2021 as *Safe Sleep Awareness Month in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of October, in the year two thousand twenty-one.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written in a cursive style.

Governor