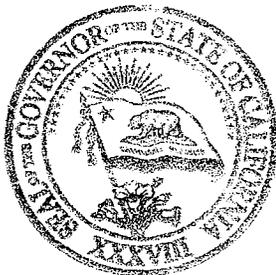


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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**PROCLAMATION**

The death of an infant is an unimaginable tragedy, and for the families who lose their seemingly healthy newborn to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), the lack of answers does little to ease their confusion and devastation. SIDS is the second leading cause of death for infants under the age of one, claiming hundreds of lives each year in California. It can strike otherwise healthy infants while they sleep and years of scientific research have produced few answers as to the cause of this tragic phenomenon. Thankfully by increasing public awareness we can reduce the instances of SIDS.

Although there is no certain way to prevent it from occurring, the California Department of Public Health recommends several precautions to be taken in order to reduce a baby's risk of dying from SIDS. Parents and caregivers should always put babies on a firm mattress facing upward. For safety, all stuffed toys, loose bedding and bumpers should be removed from the crib. Good prenatal care, breastfeeding and eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke are also important preventive measures. By taking these important steps, we can reduce the number of tragic infant fatalities each year.

During the month of October, California observes SIDS Awareness Month by joining healthcare professionals, researchers and caregivers in their efforts to increase public awareness about this condition. Our state is committed to continuing information campaigns and research efforts in order to fight this unexplainable phenomenon. I encourage all Californians to use the resources and information available to them to learn more.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 2010, as "SIDS Awareness Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 24th day of September 2010.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State