

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** The United States ranks 27<sup>th</sup> among 38 industrialized nations in the rate of Infant Mortality according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and

**Whereas** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports the national rate of infant mortality as 6.9 deaths for every 1,000 live births; and

**Whereas** The leading cause of infant death is a result of congenital abnormalities, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), low birth weight, respiratory distress syndrome and problems caused by pregnancy complications; and

**Whereas** Infant mortality can be dramatically reduced by modifying actions that affect birth outcomes such as smoking, poor prenatal care or nutrition and substance abuse; and

**Whereas** By raising awareness, the goal is to reduce the rate of infant mortality across the country,

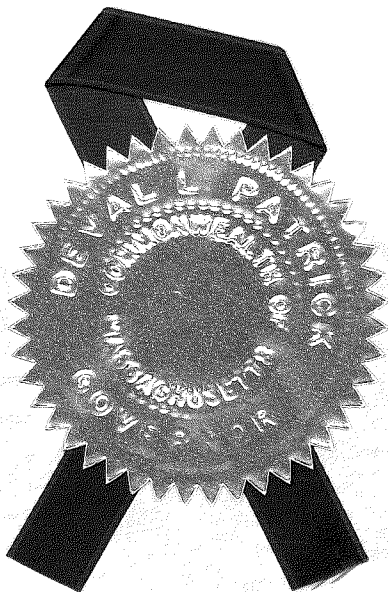
**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 2011 to be,

## INFANT MORTALITY 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-first day of October, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick".

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts