



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 babies are born each year in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, New Jersey ranked 4th in lowest infant mortality, but 2nd in largest disparities. Non-Hispanic Black infants are far less likely to reach their first birthday than their non-Hispanic white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Tammy Murphy launched Nurture NJ to improve the state's maternal and infant health outcomes, including supporting the formation and development of multidisciplinary professionals in this field and collaborating with state-wide stakeholders to advance policies towards the health and wellness of women/birthing people, infants, toddlers, young children, and their families in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Murphy Administration created the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, the first and only state authority focused singularly on maternal and infant health and the disparities in outcomes, to continue the vital work of Nurture NJ for years to come; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey launched Family Connects NJ, the nation's most robust universal nurse home visiting program, which will allow every family to have the opportunity to receive a nurse visit at home within two weeks of giving birth to assess the health of both the parents and the newborn; and

WHEREAS, the early relational health of babies is an important part of their successful development; and

WHEREAS, we have a vital responsibility to foster strong, nurturing, and committed relationships between young children and their parents, among family members, and amid the family and their community providers; and

WHEREAS, mental health is a crucial part of equitable health care for all pregnant people so that they and their babies can thrive; and

WHEREAS, early relational health is provided by multidisciplinary specialists including mental health clinicians, teachers, early educators, childcare staff, home visitors, allied health professionals, doulas, nurses, social workers, and other professionals; and

WHEREAS, parents are reminded on an ongoing basis to protect babies against vaccine-preventable diseases by staying up-to-date on shots; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health partners with the SIDS Center of New Jersey to promote safe sleep practices to reduce sudden unexpected deaths of infants; and

WHEREAS, the Murphy Administration, in coordination with partners across the state, is committed to ensuring New Jersey becomes the safest and most equitable place in the nation to deliver and raise a baby;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 21 THROUGH OCTOBER 25, 2024

AS

CELEBRATE BABIES WEEK

in New Jersey.




Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirteenth day of September in the year two thousand twenty-four, the two hundred forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.


GOVERNOR