

By: Representative Bentley

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “ARKANSAS SAFE SLEEP  
AWARENESS MONTH”.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “ARKANSAS  
SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH”.

WHEREAS, in 2016, approximately 300 infants in Arkansas died before their first birthdays and nearly 1/4 of the deaths were sudden, unexpected infant deaths, a majority of which were sleep-related; and

WHEREAS, black infants had a 40% higher risk of sleep-related deaths compared to white infants; and

WHEREAS, the sudden, unexpected death of an infant younger than 1 year of age may or may not have a known cause even after a complete investigation; and

WHEREAS, an infant who sleeps alone, on his or her back, and in a crib is much less likely to die suddenly and unexpectedly; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that an infant should always be put to sleep alone, on his or her back, and in a crib, bassinet, Pack ‘n Play, or similar sleep surface or furniture with only a firm mattress and tightly fitted sheet; and

WHEREAS, the crib, bassinet, Pack ‘n Play, or similar sleep surface or



furniture should meet the safety standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, with no bumper pads, pillows, loose blankets, comforters, toys, or other soft items; and

WHEREAS, compliance with these recommendations by an infant's caregivers can decrease the infant's risk of dying; and

WHEREAS, hospitals, state agencies, community organizations, and other partners are crucial in promoting compliance with the American Academy of Pediatrics' safe sleep recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities of the Department of Health, Arkansas Child Death Review, Arkansas Children's Hospital Nursery Alliance, Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital, Safe Sleep Infant Mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network, Arkansas Hospital Association, Inc., Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc., Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Baptist Health's Community Outreach, March of Dimes, and the Alpha Beta Zeta Dove Foundation are joining with other organizations that lead efforts in reducing these preventable sleep-related deaths among infants,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize September 2019 as "Arkansas Safe Sleep Awareness Month" and urge citizens to join together to promote safe sleep practices for infants.