STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, prematurity has been increasing steadily and alarmingly over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, in an average week in Kansas, 93 babies are born preterm and six babies die before their first birthday; and

WHEREAS, many premature babies will be too small and too sick to go home, facing weeks or even months in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU); and

WHEREAS, half of all neurological disabilities in children are related to premature birth and premature babies face an increased risk of serious medical complications and death. These include lasting disabilities such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation and learning problems, chronic lung disease and vision and hearing problems; and
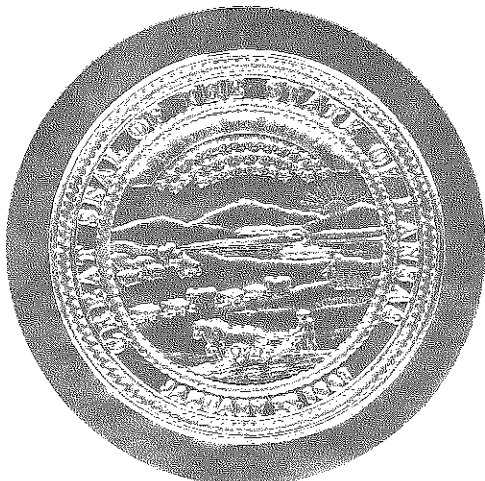
WHEREAS, doctors have made marvelous advances in caring for babies born too small and too soon, we need to find out how to prevent preterm birth from happening in the first place; and

WHEREAS, women who have had a previous preterm birth, who are pregnant with twins, triplets or more, or women with certain uterine or cervical abnormalities are more at risk to have premature births, but that preterm labor and delivery can happen to any pregnant woman:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim November of 2011, as

Prematurity Awareness Month

in Kansas and call upon all residents of this state to join with me in promoting healthy mothers, fathers, babies and families that are the foundations of all of our communities. I call upon you to support the efforts and activities of the Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality and community agencies across Kansas to ensure that every woman has a healthy pregnancy, learns about safe sleep for her baby, gets early prenatal care and support services and makes choices that promote healthy lifestyles for a lifetime.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 28th day of
October, A.D. 2011

BY THE GOVERNOR:

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Secretary of State

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Assistant Secretary of State