

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, prescription painkiller, heroin and other opioid addiction remains a serious public health issue across Ohio and the nation; and

WHEREAS, individuals with a primary diagnosis of opioid addiction now account for more than one-third of Ohioans in publicly-funded addiction treatment; and

WHEREAS, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) refers to a group of health conditions that occur in a newborn exposed to opiates while in the mother's womb; and

WHEREAS, babies with NAS experience irritability, low birth weight, breathing problems, tremors and seizures, feeding difficulties and other health-related challenges; and

WHEREAS, the rate of NAS increased 900 percent between 2004 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, inpatient costs associated with treating NAS totaled more than \$99 million in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has made fighting substance abuse and addiction a priority and is committed to promoting environments and compassionate care that gives every newborn the best-possible start in life; and

WHEREAS, the Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) pilot program and Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative are shining examples of ways Ohio is working to standardize treatment for babies with NAS, reduce costly, extended hospital stays, strengthen support for mothers and babies, and improve early identification, screening and training around NAS; and

WHEREAS, prevention education, public awareness and knowledge of available treatment resources are crucial to reduce the physical, social and economic impact of NAS.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize July 1-7, 2015 as

**NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME
AWARENESS WEEK 2015**

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to join us in the fight to stem the tide of opiate addiction and abuse – especially as it relates to mothers and newborns – by learning about NAS prevention and treatment.

On this 24th day of June 2015;



John R. Kasich
Governor



Mary Taylor
Lieutenant Governor

