

STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, abuse and dependence of prescription painkillers, heroin and other opioids have led to an opioid epidemic across Ohio and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of opioid abuse and dependence among pregnant women at time of delivery rose by 910 percent between 2004 and 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, prenatal exposure to opioids may result in opioid dependency called Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) when the infant is born; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the rate of NAS in inpatient settings increased nearly 900 percent between 2004 and 2014, resulting in five infants per day being born drug dependent; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy children are the most important resource in Ohio, and the State of Ohio has made fighting substance abuse and dependence 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 the week of July 1-7, 2016 as

**NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME  
AWARENESS WEEK 2016**

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

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016;



John R. Kasich  
Governor



Mary Taylor  
Lieutenant Governor

