



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 10/17/16

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WELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIM OCTOBER 18, 2016 INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS DAY

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners has proclaimed October 18, 2016, as Infant Mortality Awareness Day. This proclamation is part of a national campaign which intends to increase public awareness of the high rates of infant deaths across the country.

“In recent years, we have seen a decrease in infant mortality rates in Weld County, but a decrease isn’t good enough,” noted Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman. “It’s important we continue work to spread information and awareness until these tragedies no longer impact our community.”

Unsafe sleeping is the number one preventable cause of infant death in Weld County. To avoid unsafe infant sleeping, it is advised that babies sleep in their own space (a crib) and never share a bed with adults or other children. Additionally, infants should be placed on their backs for sleeping, without any blankets, toys, or crib bumper pads in the sleeping area. Lastly, smoking should never take place around infants as it significantly increases the risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).



Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman offers the proclamation to Weld Public Health and Human Services Employees, while Commissioners Conway, Cozad, Kirkmeyer, and Moreno stand above.

The Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment and the Department of Human Services welcome community members to attend a showing of the PBS documentary “Precious Loss” on October 18 at the Kress Theater. Showings are scheduled at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the 18th, with a bonus showing occurring at the St. Brigit Church in Fredrick on October 25 at 6:30 p.m. A discussion will take place following the film, as well as drawings for baby supplies, diapers, and pack-n-plays.

To sign Weld County’s Safe Sleep Pledge, go to:

<https://www.co.weld.co.us/assets/3Cb3aca8d3A5C7d8aB18.pdf>

For more prevention tips, go to: <http://www.cochildfatalityprevention.com/p/safe-sleep.html>

To learn more about infant mortality in Colorado, go to:

[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PW_ISVP_Infant-Mortality%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PW_ISVP_Infant-Mortality%20(1).pdf)

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