



PROCLAMATION NO. 2016-02

A PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, PROCLAIMING APRIL 2016, AS “MARCH FOR BABIES MONTH” IN GILA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2016, the March of Dimes held its walk in Globe, Arizona to remember the families affected by preterm birth and work to raise awareness and educate citizens about the leading cause of death of newborns, which is premature birth;

WHEREAS, premature birth is a tragedy affecting more than half a million families in the United States, with 13 million preemies born worldwide each year;

WHEREAS, in the United States the rate of preterm births has increased 36% in the past 25 years;

WHEREAS, in Arizona 9.0% of babies born in 2015 were preterm;

WHEREAS, some babies born preterm suffer from health complications, long-term physical and cognitive challenges and even death;

WHEREAS, founded in 1938, the March of Dimes is a national, volunteer-based, health organization whose mission is to improve the health of pregnant women, infants and children by preventing birth defects, preterm birth and infant mortality through research, community services, education and advocacy;

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has been proud to lead efforts that have resulted in reductions in preterm birth for the past seven consecutive years;

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is committed to continuing to reduce preterm birth rates until the U.S. rate is among the lowest in the world;

WHEREAS, the parents of babies born preterm provide overwhelming support for the March of Dimes by walking in March for Babies, serving as volunteers in its Family Ambassador program, Maternal and Child Health & Advocacy and Government Affairs Committees, Family Teams;

WHEREAS, the Gila County Board of Supervisors is committed to recognizing and honoring these initiatives dedicated to the best ideals of public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Gila County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim the month of April 2016, as “**MARCH FOR BABIES MONTH**” in Gila County and urge all people to be aware of the dangers of preterm birth and to support the efforts of the March of Dimes to help give every baby a healthy start.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of April 2016.

ATTEST:

GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Marian Sheppard, Clerk of the Board

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman