

Forsyth County Board of Health

Resolution to Support Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies

September 17, 2013

WHEREAS, the month of September is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, and it is imperative to increase people's awareness about the high rates of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County residents, communities, and organizations are encouraged to get involved in the efforts to make sure all infants live to their first birthday in Forsyth County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, *Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies* will coincide with events across the nation to bring attention to high rates of infant mortality; and

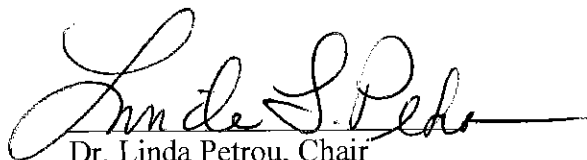
WHEREAS, in 2011, 46 infants died before their first birthday, a figure equal to two kindergarten classes; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Forsyth County's infant mortality rate was 10.0 deaths per 1000 live births and exceeds most U.S. states, as well the national rate of 6.7; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County historically has the highest overall infant mortality rate of the five most populated counties in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, prematurity and low birth weight, birth defects, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome are main contributors to infant death and disproportionately affects low-income communities, with the death rate for babies of color being two-to-three times higher than that of White babies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Health hereby supports the goals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month and the Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition's efforts to raise awareness of the problem of infant mortality in our community with the *Annual Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies*.



Dr. Linda Petrou, Chair
Forsyth County Board of Health

9/12/13
Date