

**TOPIC:** In Support of Forming Partnerships to Increase Education and Awareness of Maternal and Infant Mortality in Ohio

**SUBMITTED BY:** Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio

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WHEREAS, More women die from pregnancy complications in the United States than in any other developed country. (DiVenere, 2018, p. 30); and

WHEREAS, The maternal mortality rate within the United States has increased by more than 25 percent between 2000 and 2014, and African-American women have a greater than three times higher rate of death than their Caucasian counterparts. (Cleveland Clinic, 2018); and

WHEREAS, The black infant mortality rate in Cuyahoga County is three times higher than that of white infants, and in some Cleveland neighborhoods it reaches levels seen in developing countries (Zeltner, 2017); and

WHEREAS, Breastfeeding offers an infant protection against child infections and malocclusion, increases intelligence, reduces risk of obesity and diabetes, improves birth spacing, and protects the nursing mother against breast and ovarian cancer, and type 2 diabetes. (Wallingford, 2016, p. 475); and

WHEREAS, Among women who intend to exclusively breastfeed, in-hospital formula supplementation is associated with a two times greater risk of not fully breastfeeding between days 30 and 60, and a three times greater risk of breastfeeding cessation by day 60. (Chantry, Dewey, et. al., 2014, p. 1339); and

WHEREAS, Approximately 3500 infants die annually from sleep-related infant deaths, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ill-defined deaths, and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed; a safe sleep environment requires supine position, the use of a firm sleep surface, room-sharing without bed-sharing, and the avoidance of soft bedding and overheating. (Moon, 2016, p. e1); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the OhSNA provide education about maternal and infant mortality and related factors on the OhSNA website, social media sites, and through programs at the annual state convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the OhSNA form partnerships with organizations dedicated to decreasing the incidence of maternal and infant mortality in Ohio, such as MomsFirst, Birthing Beautiful Communities, Baby Box Co., Moms2B, and all other relevant organizations, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the OhSNA encourage school chapters to educate members of their community about methods to decrease risk for infant mortality, through methods such as volunteering with partner organizations, visiting local schools, performing supply drives, and/or contacting local officials, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the OhSNA send a copy of this resolution to the Ohio Nurses Association, Ohio Board of Nursing, Ohio Chapter American College of Nurse Midwives, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky Association of Neonatal Nurses, National Black Nurses Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the OhSNA Board of Directors.