

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING APRIL 3, 2018)
AS MARCH FOR BABIES DAY IN FRESNO COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 18-123

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, premature birth and infant mortality through research, community services, education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 15 million preterm babies (birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy) born worldwide each year and rising. It is the second leading cause of death among children under five years of age. 1.1 million babies die from preterm birth complications; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, over 500,000 babies are born prematurely each year with over 120,000 born with a birth defect. Prematurity and birth defects are a leading causes of infant mortality, with medical and societal costs of preterm births estimated at over \$26 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, in California, 8.6% of children are born preterm with about 15,000 babies born having a birth defect. Over 2,000 babies die before their first birthday; and

WHEREAS, in Fresno County, 10.1% of children are born preterm with some suffering from health complications, long-term physical and cognitive challenges and even death; and

WHEREAS, March 23, 2018 was "Blue Jeans for Babies" day in the County of Fresno, where participants made donations and wore jeans to work in support of babies; and

WHEREAS, April 19, 2018 will be an additional "Blue Jeans for Babies" day in the County of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2018, the March of Dimes invites the public to attend the "March for Babies" walk at Woodward Park, which raises funds for infants; and

WHEREAS, the donation campaign will continue online through April 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, funds raised during this event are from personal contributions and not from County funds; and

WHEREAS, limited Fresno County staff time, email and County logo may be used to promote this event.

