

# STATE OF MONTANA



## *Governor's Proclamation*



*WHEREAS, over 11,000 babies are born in Montana each year; and*

*WHEREAS, 1 in 8 women are affected by perinatal depression, which can often be overlooked and heavily stigmatized, leading to feelings of isolation; and*

*WHEREAS, up to 1 in 10 fathers also experience a perinatal mood disorder which can also contribute to increased risks to the healthy development of their child; and*

*WHEREAS, despite being highly treatable with therapeutic intervention, many individuals at risk of perinatal depression may not seek help due to a lack of awareness or knowledge of screening and assessment tools and treatment and community support services for perinatal depression and related mood disorders; and*

*WHEREAS, increased awareness and education among all residents in Montana regarding perinatal depression is critical to prevent adverse developmental and behavioral outcomes and attachment disorders in the young children of affected women and men;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim May 2021 to be*

### **MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

to raise awareness and support parents experiencing perinatal depression in Montana.

**GREG GIANFORTE**  
**Governor**