

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS, up to 80 percent of new mothers experience changes in their emotional health following childbirth, regardless of race, age, culture or socioeconomic status. Of this number, 15-20 percent experience more severe symptoms, collectively known as Postpartum Mood Disorders; and,

WHEREAS, based on the number of births each year in Illinois, it is estimated that 27,000-36,000 mothers are affected by moderate to severe postpartum emotional symptoms annually in Illinois alone. Postpartum Mood Disorders (PPMDs) have been called "The most significant complication associated with childbirth". PPMDs interfere with mother-infant bonding and disrupt the entire family unit; and,

WHEREAS, there are many forms of Postpartum Mood Disorders, including the milder "Baby Blues" and more severe Postpartum Depression, Postpartum Panic Disorder, and Postpartum Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. The most severe disorder, Postpartum Psychosis, is a life-threatening mental illness associated with a 10 percent suicide/infanticide rate; and,

WHEREAS, with proper awareness, education, intervention, and resources, Postpartum Mood Disorders are nearly 100 percent treatable; and,

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness among all Illinois families on the prevalence, identification, and treatment of Postpartum Mood Disorders has significant potential to save lives and prevent the unnecessary suffering experienced by so many families following childbirth:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2012 as **POSTPARTUM MOOD DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, in order to raise awareness of this serious and debilitating disorder that affects childbearing women and their families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SEVENTH day of JANUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TWELVE, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Debra White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR