



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of 12 months which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted, including a full and thorough review by a licensed Medical Examiner, which includes a post-mortem examination, environmental review and review of the child's medical history; and

WHEREAS, each year, there are approximately 400 sudden unexpected child deaths in the United States among children between the ages of one and 17 years, and;

WHEREAS, more than 200 children between the ages of one and four die without any clear cause or explanation, making SUDC the fifth-leading cause of death among that age group; and

WHEREAS, while less common than Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is mysterious and a significant health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and

WHEREAS, at this time, there is no cure or way to prevent SUDC since its cause(s) is not yet known; and

WHEREAS, it is hoped that future medical research will identify the risk factors and underlying causes of SUDC in an effort to strengthen prevention; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey recognizes the dedicated efforts of organizations, such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals and volunteers that are working to better understand the causes of sudden unexplained death, to improve the health of infants and children, and to provide much needed hope and support for families grieving the sudden unexplained death of a child; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives lost, to show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones forever devastated by their loss, and to increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2020
AS
SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD
AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-sixth day of February in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

Richard J. DeLeon
Lt. GOVERNOR

Philip D. Murphy
GOVERNOR