

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### **SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH** March 2021

*WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months which remains unexplained after a thorough investigation is conducted, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the child's medical history; and*

*WHEREAS, each year, there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States among children between the ages of one and nineteen—including more than 240 children under the age of five—who die without any clear cause or explanation; and*

*WHEREAS, while less common than Sudden Infant Death syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and*

*WHEREAS, we recognize 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, improve the health of infants and children, and provide much needed hope and support for those families grieving the heartbreaking 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 that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones forever devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers.*

*THEREFORE, in recognition and support of the patients, families, and professionals leading the fight against Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to learn about SUDC, to raise awareness, and to aid and support those who are affected by it.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of February two thousand twenty-one, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-fifth.*



*Tom Wolf*  
TOM WOLF  
Governor