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
Governor