

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, one of the most heartbreaking experiences that a parent, grandparent, sibling, extended family member, and other loved ones might endure is the sudden and unexpected loss of a child, and no words can provide adequate comfort to those who forever grieve over such a loss; and

Whereas, recognizing that a single young life lost is one too many, the Empire State joins to support initiatives that draw attention to such issues as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) – a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 years that remains unexplained even after a thorough investigation, including examination of the death scene, review of the clinical history, and an autopsy; and

Whereas, there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States annually, with the majority including more than 200 very young children between the ages of 1 and 4 years who die without any clear cause or explanation; and

Whereas, this ranks SUDC as the fifth leading category of death among children 1 to 4 years in age, and its prevention remains a medical challenge as its cause is unknown and there currently are no methods to predict or prevent SUDC; and

Whereas, while less common than sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern that calls for increased public awareness and research; and

Whereas, together, New Yorkers share in the hope that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented and families who know the sorrow and tragedy of an unforeseen and sudden child loss can benefit immensely from information on how to better cope with these tragic events and from the support of a caring public; and

Whereas, New York State places a high priority on ensuring excellent neonatal and pediatric healthcare in our state, and recognizes the dedicated efforts of organizations such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, and volunteers who are working to better understand the causes of SUDC, 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, during Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month, New Yorkers join to honor the memory of those young lives that ended too soon and take this opportunity to show our encouragement and support for the families and loved ones devastated by their loss, while also highlighting the need for increased awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers;

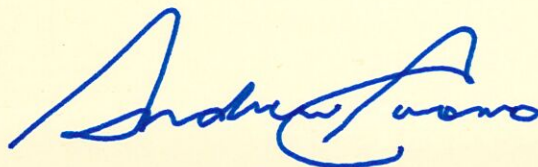
Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth
day of February in the year two thousand twenty-one.


Governor



Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa