

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

**2021**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child, age 12 months or older, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including 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 - including more than 240 younger 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**, SUDC is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading category of death among toddlers in the United States, and there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause(s) is unknown; future research will hopefully identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

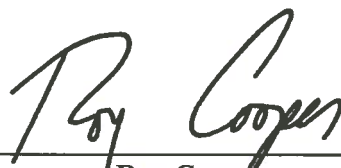
**WHEREAS**, individuals and organizations such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, and volunteers are working to better understand the causes of sudden unexplained death, improve the health of infants and children, and provide much-needed hope and support for those families grieving the heartbreaking sudden unexplained death of a child; and

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor and support the families and loved ones of the children we have lost, and increase public awareness of SUDC; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina commends the organizations and individuals in our communities dedicated to promoting awareness, funding, and research to identify the causes and prevention of SUDC, and honors the memory of the young lives that were ended too soon;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2021, as "**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifth of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.