

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

WHEREAS, each year there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States – including more than 200 younger children between the ages of 1 and 4 – 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 5th leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown, and it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, we recognize 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

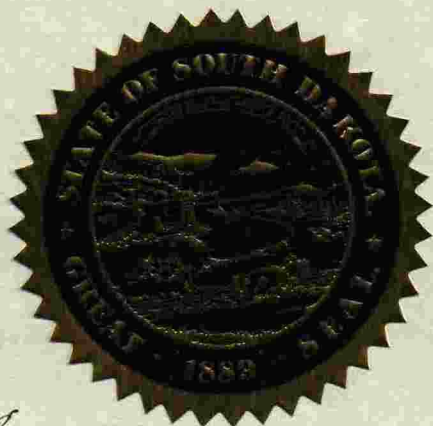
WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for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

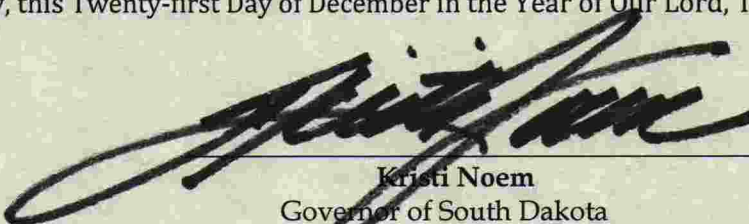
NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2021, as

**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD
AWARENESS MONTH**

in South Dakota.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.





Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST



Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State