

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of 12 months that remains unexplained after a thorough case 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 between the ages of 1 and 19 – including more than 240 children under the age of 5 – who die without any clear cause; 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 fifth leading cause of death among toddlers, and at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its causes are unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, it is hoped that future research will identify the means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the dedicated efforts of medical professionals and volunteers who 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;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 2021 to be

### *Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month*

in the state of Washington, and I encourage all people to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

