



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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February 23, 2022

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of Maine, I write this letter in support of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month which is recognized annually in March.

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden death of a child between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a complete investigation, autopsy, examination of the scene of death, and review of the child's medical history. SUDC is the fifth leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States, with approximately 400 cases of SUDC each year in children between the ages of 1 and 18, the majority of whom are under 4. While less common than Sudden Infant Death Syndrome which occurs prior to the first birthday, prediction, prevention and the cause of SUDC are similarly unknown.

As Governor, I am truly grateful for the families, medical providers and organizations in Maine and throughout the country who are working to better understand the causes of SUDC, to improve the health of infants and children, and to provide much needed hope and support for those grieving the heartbreaking unexplained death of a child. It is through increased awareness and research that we will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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