



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood
Awareness Month**

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 240 younger children under the age of 5 - 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 cause of death in children ages 1 to 4, and at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause(s) is unknown. 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 that 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

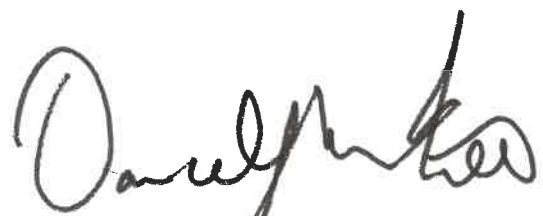
WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones forever devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim March 2022, as: ***Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month*** in the state and encourage all residents to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.




Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island,
this 1st day of March, 2022.


Daniel J. McKee
Governor