

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

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, In 2021, 450 children in the United States were affected by SUDC - including 249 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 5<sup>th</sup> leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and is 2.2 times more common in Black/African American children than White children and

Whereas, There currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; and

Whereas, 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,

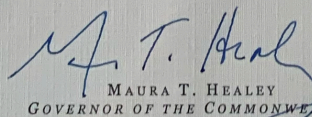
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March, 2023 to be,

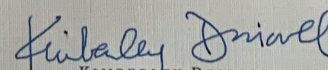
## SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

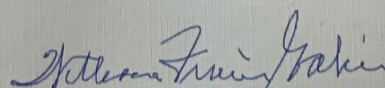
And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of March, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

  
MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts