



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH
March 2023**

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months which remains unexplained after a thorough 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 450 cases of SUDC in the United States among children between the ages of one and nineteen. According to the SUDC Foundation, 249 children under the age of five died without any clear cause or explanation in 2021; 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, we recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, 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.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH in recognition and support of the patients, families, and professionals leading the fight against Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to learn about SUDC, raise awareness, and aid and support those who are affected by it.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-second day of February two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.

A blue ink signature of Josh Shapiro.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor