



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Our precious children represent the promise of a brighter tomorrow and are a constant source of pride for their parents, families, friends, and communities. The loss of a child is therefore heartrending in every circumstance, but this anguish is compounded exponentially when a child's passing occurs without warning or identifiable cause. Yet, hundreds of families are confronted with this disturbing news on an annual basis. When a child's death defies medical explanation, it is classified as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC), and this terrifying phenomenon is both a confounding medical mystery and a parent's worst nightmare.

In cases of SUDC, a beloved child can appear perfectly healthy in one moment before inexplicably succumbing to death in the next, and devastated loved ones are left with neither answers nor closure. SUDC is especially cruel because it predominantly impacts children between the ages of 1 and 4—lives cut short when they have scarcely begun. If thorough medical investigations or autopsies yield no conclusive explanation, these deaths can remain unexplained in perpetuity. This can complicate grief, and the unanswered questions can be a source of lifelong agony. Furthermore, being symptomless, SUDC can give rise to dread among all families of young children, knowing it is impossible to prevent.

As members of a compassionate society, we know that these families need not bear this emotional burden alone, and to this end, countless individuals, civic groups, government entities, and churches provide all manner of support to families who have lost a child to SUDC. Moreover, we have long sought answers and prevention through research, and in 2014, the Sudden Unexpected Death Data and Enhancement and Awareness Act was unanimously passed by Congress. This law improves the accuracy and consistency of SUDC data, and by so doing, it paves the way for a happier, healthier future free from the worries and heartbreak of SUDC.

Each year, the month of March is set aside to shed light on SUDC, to galvanize public support for affected families, and to promote further research into these deaths. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood and to express heartfelt sympathy for the many families that have suffered the unimaginable.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim March 2023 to be

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
3rd day of February, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas