

The State of Washington



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, each year, there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States— including more than 240 children under the age of 5 who die without any clear cause; 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, currently, there is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; and

WHEREAS, that the aim of future research will be to identify the means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations, medical professionals, 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, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 2023 to be

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month

in the state of Washington, and I encourage all people to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 15th day of February, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

