

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of one 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 200 younger children between the ages of one and four - 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 category of death among children ages one to four in the United States; 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, I 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;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 2024 to be *Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTIETH *day of* FEBRUARY, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FOUR, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR