



*State of Missouri*

## *Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of one and eighteen 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 fifth leading cause of death among children ages one and four, and at the present time, there is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim March 2024, to be

### **SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE