

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

### **SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2024**

- 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 200 younger children between the ages of 1 and 4 - who die without any clear cause or explanation; and*
- WHEREAS,** *SUDC is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and*
- WHEREAS,** *There currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown. It is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We 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,** *Observing 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, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MARCH 2024 as SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH in Maryland and call upon the people of our state to join in this observance.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March  
Two Thousand and twenty-four

*[Signature]*  
Governor

*[Signature]*  
Lt. Governor

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State