



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# 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 200 younger children between the ages of 1 and 4 – 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 1 to 4 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**, 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**, the New Mexico Department of Health, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Education & Care Department, the Children, Youth & Families Department and numerous community partners collaborated on an expansive Safe Sleep New Mexico campaign to support and educate parents and caregivers on the importance of safe sleep practices for babies to reduce the incidence of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death; 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, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim March 2024, as:

## “Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this  
27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal  
of the State of New Mexico.



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor