



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the sudden and unexpected death of a child is especially painful and all the more distressing when the cause is unknown, indeterminate, and unresolved; and

Whereas, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of one and eighteen, where the reason for fatality remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

Whereas, each year there are approximately 450 cases of SUDC in the United States including nearly 250 younger children between the ages of one and four who die without any clear cause or underlying medical condition; 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 category of death among children ages one to four in the United States; and

Whereas, because its cause is unknown, there currently is no method to predict or prevent SUDC and we are hopeful that future research will identify ways to prevent SUDC; 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 heartbroken families grieving the sudden unexplained death of a child; and

Whereas, during Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month all New Yorkers join 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, increase public awareness of SUDC, and recognize the importance of continuing the search for its cause;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
March in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor