



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
**Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood
Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, there were approximately 450 cases of SUDC in the United States- including almost 250 children between the age 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, at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause(s) is unknown; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations such as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, 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, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as: ***Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month*** in the state and encourage all state residents to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.




Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the seal
of the Office of the Governor of the
State of Rhode Island, this 6th day of
March, 2024.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor