

*Executive Proclamation*  
*State of South Dakota*  
*Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of one 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 one and four, who die without any clear cause or explanation; and,

*Whereas*, while less common than sudden infant death syndrome, 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 one to four in the United States; and,

*Whereas*, there currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC, as its cause is unknown; and,

*Whereas*, we hope 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, and 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 devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers:

*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2024, as

**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN  
CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

*Kristi Noem*  
Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

*Monae L. Johnson*  
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State