

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's 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, SUDC claims the lives of approximately 400 children 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 and the 5<sup>th</sup> leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** currently there is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown, but research continues in the search for means by which SUDC can be prevented.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as**

### SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the dedicated efforts of medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, organizations, 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.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry Dargan McMaster".

**HENRY DARGAN McMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**