

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

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 525 cases of SUDC in the United States - including more than 200 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 fourth leading category of death among children ages one to four in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there currently is no known way to predict or prevent SUDC as its causes are unknown; and,

WHEREAS, continued research and awareness efforts are vital to uncovering the causes of SUDC and identifying ways to prevent these tragic losses in the future; 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;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as **Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month**, providing an opportunity to honor the memory of young lives lost too soon, offering encouragement and support to grieving families, and increasing public understanding of SUDC and the need for continued research.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-EIGHTH day of FEBRUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SIXTH.



Alysi Giannouh
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR