

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH 2025

WHEREAS, Sudden unexplained death in childhood 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 there are approximately 525 cases 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, which occurs before the first birthday, sudden unexplained death in childhood is an important health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and

WHEREAS, Sudden unexplained death in childhood is the fourth leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States and there is currently no way to predict or prevent 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 Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Foundation, medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, and volunteers who are working to better understand the causes of sudden unexplained death in childhood, 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 devastated by their loss, increase public awareness of SUDC, and the need for ongoing research efforts in search for answers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MARCH 2025as SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of March
Two Thousand and twenty-five

The signature of Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland.

Governor

Dwina Miller

St. Governor

Heaven C. Lee

Secretary of State

