

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of 12 months which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the child's medical history; and

Whereas, Each year, there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States between the ages of 1 and 19 - including more than 240 children under the age of 5 - 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, SUDC is the 5th leading cause among toddlers, and at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause(s) is unknown. It is hoped 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, 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, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March 2019, to be,

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of March, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts