

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- 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 there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC 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 deserving of increased public awareness and research; and
- Whereas,** SUDC is the 5th leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4, and at the present time, there is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown, and it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and
- Whereas,** the dedicated efforts of organizations, medical professionals, and volunteers who 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 devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *March 2026* as:

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

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

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third of the State.



Patrick Morrisey

Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner

Secretary of State