



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**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 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, 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, 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; 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**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

*Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood  
(SUDC) Awareness Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this sixteenth day of January 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Roush*

Secretary of State