



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 400-500 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 fifth leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 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; 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 2026 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 fourth day of February 2026.

Bill Lee

Governor

DeVergot

Secretary of State