

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH 2023

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 case investigation is conducted, including the performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene and a review of the child's medical history; and

WHEREAS, each year there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States – including more than 200 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

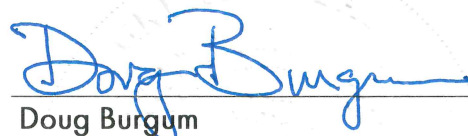
WHEREAS, SUDC is the fifth-leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and while there currently is no known cause of SUDC, it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

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, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
March 2023, **SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD  
AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum

GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 

Michael Howe

SECRETARY OF STATE