

State of Vermont
Executive Department
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 a review of the child's medical history; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, there are more than 3,600 sudden unexpected infant deaths and over 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,** at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause is not known, and it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented, and when risk factors are identified, such as prone sleep positions for SIDS, then one might anticipate reduction in the risk of SUDC; 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, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim March, 2017 as

**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD
AWARENESS MONTH**

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of March, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs