

Senate Resolution No. 3020

BY: Senator LANZA

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2020, as Sudden Unexplained Death in Children (SUDC) Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious health issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2020, as Sudden Unexplained Death in Children (SUDC) Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National SUDC Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, SUDC is the unexpected death of a child over the age of one, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted; similar to SIDS, SUDC is a diagnosis of exclusion, given when all known and possible causes of death have been ruled out; and

WHEREAS, By definition, SIDS applies only to the death of babies younger than 12 months, while SUDC victims are children past their first birthday whose deaths go unexplained even after an autopsy, a death scene investigation and medical history review; and

WHEREAS, SUDC is not new, but is rare with a reported incidence of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 children, compared to 54 deaths per 100,000 live births for SIDS (United States, 2005); presently, SUDC cannot be predicted and/or prevented since its cause is unknown; and

WHEREAS, Established in the fall of 2001, the SUDC Foundation offers no cost services to families who have lost a child for an unexplained reason; this vital organization provides grants for and conducts research which will further our understanding of these mysterious deaths; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the SUDC Foundation supports over 800 families in 18 countries by providing personalized, comprehensive care from licensed clinical social workers, and cultivates a community of support for bereaved families so that no one has to grieve alone; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation also assists families in accessing research and DNA banking services which could possibly lead to answers on what may have happened to their child; and

WHEREAS, Every year, at least 400 children are lost to SUDC, which is the fifth leading cause of death among children between the ages of one and four; and

WHEREAS, Such was the case for young Lily Jo Jurgens, a perfectly healthy girl who, at two years old, suddenly collapsed and passed away on June 15, 2015; after her autopsy, it was determined she had succumbed to SUDC; and

WHEREAS, The family of Lily Jo Jurgens along with other families from different parts of New York State are struggling to cope with this difficult situation as they have similar stories; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health crisis, and more must be done to increase activity at the State, local and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2020, as Sudden Unexplained Death in Children (SUDC) Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.