

House Resolution 1625

By: Representative LaRiccia of the 169<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Levi Cason Rudd and recognizing March, 2018, as Sudden  
2 Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month at the state capitol; and for  
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourned the loss of one of its most precious and beloved  
5 young citizens when Levi passed away on March 7, 2013, due to sudden unexplained death  
6 in childhood (SUDC); and

7 WHEREAS, Levi Cason Rudd was born on March 24, 2011, the cherished son of Chris and  
8 Gail Rudd; and

9 WHEREAS, sudden unexplained death in childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected  
10 death of a child over the age of 12 months which remains unexplained after a thorough case  
11 investigation is conducted, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the  
12 death scene, and review of the child's medical history; and

13 WHEREAS, each year there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States in  
14 children between the ages of one and 19, including more than 200 children under the age of  
15 five who die without any clear cause or explanation; and

16 WHEREAS, while less common than sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which occurs  
17 before a child's first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern deserving of increased  
18 public awareness and research; and

19 WHEREAS, SUDC is the fifth-leading cause of death among toddlers and, at the present  
20 time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; and

21 WHEREAS, it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be  
22 prevented; and

23 WHEREAS, the members of this body recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations such  
24 as the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, and volunteers who work to better  
25 understand the causes of sudden unexplained death, improve the health of infants and  
26 children, and provide much needed hope and support for those families grieving the  
27 heartbreaking sudden unexplained death of a child; and

28 WHEREAS, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an  
29 opportunity to honor the memory of young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement  
30 and support for the families and loved ones forever devastated by their loss, and increase  
31 public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Levi Cason Rudd and recognize  
34 March, 2018, as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month at the  
35 state capitol.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
38 family of Levi Cason Rudd.