

Proclamation Wording Suggestion:

Whereas, congenital heart defects are those existing at birth; and

Whereas, with familiarity of the disorder, more diagnoses are being made of what was not long ago thought to be an extremely rare disorder and not repairable;

Whereas, CHD is among the most common birth defects and is the leading cause of defect-related deaths. Too many babies and children born with CHDs continue to die due to the severity of the defect, the heart defect not being detected in time, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used;

Whereas, more than 40,000 infants (1 of every 100) are born each year with heart defects in the United States;

Whereas, CHD is being researched by numerous professionals (at least 35 defects are now recognized) in order to more accurately describe its origin, physical signs and symptoms and surgical options;

Whereas, it is important to raise awareness of this disorder, so that the likelihood of early diagnosis and intervention will increase;

Therefore, I, _____ Governor of the State of _____, do hereby officially proclaim February 7-14th as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.