



Proclamation January 2026: National Birth Defects Awareness Month

Whereas, every 4.5 minutes a baby is born with a condition that affects the structure or function of their body; these conditions are referred to as birth defects;

Whereas, birth defects can vary widely in how and where they affect the body;

Whereas, the risk of some birth defects can be decreased by taking certain steps before and during pregnancy;

Whereas, while medical advancements have greatly improved the health and survival of these individuals, many of these conditions are lifelong and require extended care;

Whereas, early identification and early intervention also can help a child receive the right care and resources they need to thrive;

Whereas, everyone's journey is unique, shaped by their specific condition, individual strengths, and the support system in place;

Whereas, knowledge empowers parents to make the best choices for their child's future. Understanding the child's condition is essential to making informed decisions about their health and well-being;

Whereas, family members and healthcare providers can ensure that individuals with birth defects receive the care and services they need to be as healthy and independent as they can be;

Whereas, community plays an integral role in the lives of individuals and families affected by birth defects;

Whereas, families navigating this journey, connecting with others who share similar experiences can be a helpful source of support, advice, and understanding;

Whereas, a community-wide focus on inclusion encourages an environment of acceptance that benefits everyone;

Whereas, all community members can make a difference and play a part to help create a place where everyone knows that they belong.

NOW, THEREFORE, I (Governor's name), Governor of (state), hereby proclaim January 2026 as Birth Defects Awareness Month in (state).