

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are considered to be the most common birth defects and are a leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 babies in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect every year, though some are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, tragically, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes yet, despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity to recognize the courage of children with heart defects and their families, remember loved ones lost to congenital heart defects, and honor the medical professionals who dedicate themselves to researching and treating this condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7 - 14, 2013, as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to increase awareness, education, and access to quality services for children and adults living with a congenital heart defect.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA