

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is a birth defect that occurs when the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,600 babies are born with CDH every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, it is estimated that over 500,000 babies have been born with CDH, and that only 50 percent of those babies have survived; and

WHEREAS, those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications beyond their diagnosis, including heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, and developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS, CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis; however, very few people know about or are aware of it; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 observance of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month and Action Day provides an opportunity to recognize the courage of those with CDH and their families, remember loved ones lost to this devastating birth defect, and raise awareness of the need for continued research into this condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2016, as

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

and April 19, 2016, as

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA ACTION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to learn more about CDH and help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with this congenital defect.



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

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA