

**Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day – Proc Signing**  
**Friday, Feb. 6, 3:30 – Governor's Office (Possible Rotunda)**

**Background:**

- MS will be signing a proclamation designating Feb. 14 as "Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day." The group requesting the proc is a loosely-affiliated support group for parents of children with congenital heart defects
- Sponsoring organization is the Congenital Heart Defect Information Network, but the attendees aren't really "members" of this group – it's more of a support organization.

**Logistics:**

- Group is expecting MS to read the proc and then present it to **Dr. Ozzie Shuler**, a pediatric cardiologist with MUSC who has treated many of the children present. Four of the children present will then each present MS with teddy bears for the Sanford kids.
- Depending on turnout, we may move event to Rotunda

**Audience:**

- About 50 people will be present – parents of and children with congenital heart defects. There will also be a couple of physicians present. Some media may be present, but unlikely.

**Talking Points:**

- **Note:** They are not expecting comments from MS other than reading the proc. MS is the first Governor to sign the proc publicly for the group – other Governors have signed it, but not in front of the group. Their main purpose is to meet / be photographed with MS.
- Importance of what you all are doing to raise awareness about Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs)
  - Most frequent birth defect, and leading cause of birth defect-related deaths
  - 40,000 babies in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect each year
  - More than one million people living with congenital heart defects in the United States today
- CHD's require varying levels of care, from routine doctor visits to open heart surgery, which many of the families here have experienced, so:
  - Thanks to the folks at MUSC (Dr. Shuler and his colleagues) for what you're doing to help these kids and families
  - And thanks to all of you parents and families for sticking together, providing support to one another through times

*goudney*