



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK**

**2019**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, congenital heart defects occur in approximately 1 in 100 births in the United States and are the most common type of birth defect; and

**WHEREAS**, every year, approximately 40,000 children in the United States begin life with at least one of the more than 35 identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS**, congenital heart defects can be fatal, or may become fatal due to insufficient effective medical intervention options and/or the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

**WHEREAS**, undiagnosed congenital heart defects can cause sudden cardiac death, especially in young athletes, but newborns without obvious symptoms are not routinely screened for these conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable, and the range of surgical options is expanding due to medical professionals' continued research efforts and field experiences; however, there is still much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for parents, family members, pediatricians, and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness, promote accessible resources, and support families whose lives have been affected by these conditions as they celebrate life and remember loved ones lost; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina commends those who are committed to furthering research and treatment of congenital heart defects for the benefit of the many North Carolina families and communities that are directly or indirectly affected by these conditions;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7 – 14, 2019, as “**CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.