

Heart Heroes, Inc.

Providing Support and Comfort to Children and Families Affected by Congenital Heart Defects (CHD)

#ProclaimTheNation

#CHDAwareness

#HeartHeroes

Dear Governor _____,

Families of children with congenital heart defects, adults with congenital heart defects, and the professionals who work with these Heart Heroes are joining forces to have February 7-14th proclaimed in all states as "**Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**".



My name is _____. I am a resident of _____ and mother to an amazing _____, _____, who was born in _____ with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) called _____. Because _____ heart was not formed correctly, _____ needed open-heart surgery to repair the defect. _____ has had _____ open-heart surgeries and has also undergone _____ other heart procedures to maintain _____ heart health. _____'s story is a difficult one as a mother to tell, but it's not as uncommon a story as you might think. **One in every 100 babies** is born with CHD- that's about 40,000 babies per year! CHD is the *number one birth defect* worldwide.

I am writing to you today to see about the possibility of the State of _____ making an executive proclamation declaring the week of February 7 - 14 as **Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**. We would be so proud and honored to have _____'s support during CHD Awareness Week this February and we hope you will join us in raising awareness for the most common birth defect! Many states and local governments across the nation are already recognizing this special week in February. An executive proclamation from our state government would really help reinforce the awareness and education message that we are trying to spread.

I am requesting the proclamation in honor of my _____ on behalf of Heart Heroes, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support to children and families affected by CHD, through the distribution of superhero capes, programs to offer support, and funds for CHD research. Heart Heroes is hosting a CHD Awareness Initiative during February, hosting fundraisers and other CHD awareness events on social media and around the country. For more information about Congenital Heart Defects and Heart Heroes' programs, please visit www.heartheroes.org.

I would be extremely proud if _____ was to participate in making February 7 - 14 a special week to *recognize* people born with heart defects, to *remember* loved ones who lost their battle with CHD, to *honor* the dedicated health professionals who work with us, and to *raise* awareness and funds for the life-saving research that is so desperately needed. I have included a rough draft of what the proclamation could include.

Our state's participation in this event will have a profound impact on thousands of families and individuals. Please feel free to contact me (contact information below) with any questions or if you need anything further. On behalf of Heart Heroes in our city and across the country, I thank you so much for your time and consideration.

With Heart,

