A Proclamation

Whereas, The health and well-being of all children throughout our Commonwealth are of paramount importance to the Commonwealth's families and communities; and

Whereas, Thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including approximately 40,000 children in the United States who begin life with one of more than thirty-five identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

Whereas, Congenital heart defects are among our Commonwealth's most common birth defects and they are often fatal due to their seriousness, a lack of effective medical intervention options and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

Whereas, The origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable and the range of surgical options are-expanding continuously thanks to doctors' and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of knowledge every day; and

Whereas, There is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects and it is important for parents, 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 the opportunity for families and patients affected by these conditions to share their experiences and knowledge with the public, so that we all may be made more aware of how this defect affects our lives,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of February 7th to the 14th, 2019, to be,

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

By His Excellency

[Signatures]

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GILPIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts