

Proclamation

January is National
Birth Defects
Prevention Month!

National Birth Defects Prevention Month, January 2019

Whereas, birth defects are common, costly, and critical;

Whereas, birth defects affect an estimated **[enter number here]** infants in **[enter your state here]** each year;

Whereas, birth defects are a leading cause of death in the first year of life, associated with one in **[enter number here]** infant deaths in **[enter your state here]**;

Whereas, birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history, or economic status;

Whereas, steps can be taken to reduce the chance that a child will be born with a birth defect, such as taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, getting regular prenatal care, becoming up-to-date with vaccinations, reaching a healthy weight before pregnancy, and stopping the use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy; and

Whereas, early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child's quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I **[enter name here]**, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF **[YOUR STATE HERE]**, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JANUARY 2019 AS NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH.