January 2024: National Birth Defects Awareness Month

Whereas, every 4.5 minutes a baby is born with a condition that affects the structure or function of their body; these conditions are referred to as birth defects;

Whereas, they can vary widely in how and where they affect the body;

Whereas, while medical advancements have greatly improved the health and survival of these individuals, many of these conditions are lifelong and require extended care.

Whereas, everyone’s journey is unique, shaped by their specific condition, individual strengths, and the support system in place.

Whereas, knowledge empowers parents to make the best choices for their child’s future. Understanding the child's condition is essential to making informed decisions about their health and well-being;

Whereas, early identification and early intervention also can help a child receive the right care and resources they need to thrive;

Whereas, family members and healthcare providers can ensure that individuals with birth defects receive the care and services they need to be as healthy and independent as they can be;

Whereas, community plays an integral role in the lives of individuals and families affected by birth defects;

Whereas, families navigating this journey, connecting with others who share similar experiences can be a helpful source of support, advice, and understanding.

Whereas, a community-wide focus on inclusion encourages an environment of acceptance that benefits everyone;

Whereas, every community member can make a difference and play a part to help create a place where everyone knows that they belong.

NOW, THEREFORE, I ____________, governor of ____________, do hereby proclaim January 2024 as Birth Defects Awareness Month in _________.