

# Proclamation

January is National  
Birth Defects  
Prevention Month!

## National Birth Defects Prevention Month, January 2020

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 2020 AS NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH.