



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: A baby is born with a birth defect every 4.5 minutes, affecting 1 in every 33 babies in the United States, and more than 2,000 babies born in Minnesota each year; and

WHEREAS: Birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, health history, economic status, or level of education, and birth defects cause 1 in every 5 infant deaths nationwide and approximately 90 infant deaths every year in Minnesota, with congenital heart defects being among the most common; and

WHEREAS: Early identification of a child with a birth defect, coupled with early intervention services, typically improves the child's quality of life and may save the child's life; and

WHEREAS: About one-half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the critical early weeks of embryonic development; and

WHEREAS: To decrease the number of babies born with birth defects in Minnesota and across the country, the month of January is dedicated to raising awareness about birth defects and strategies for their prevention. Preventive strategies for women of reproductive age include taking a daily multivitamin with folic acid; avoiding alcohol and tobacco use; maintaining a healthy weight; having regular doctor visits; learning about family history and genetic risks; and managing maternal medical conditions, while minimizing unnecessary medication exposure in pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Health joins with the March of Dimes; the National Birth Defects Prevention Network; and many dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, and parent groups, by participating in this important cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2014, as:

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26th day of December.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE