



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, health history, economic status, or level of education; and

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

WHEREAS: Birth defects cause 1 in every 5 deaths in infants nationwide and almost 100 infant deaths every year in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Congenital heart defects, conditions present at birth, which affect the structure and function of the heart, are among the most common birth defects, affecting nearly 40,000 infants born in the United States each year; and

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

WHEREAS: About half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and 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 each year to raising awareness about birth defects and strategies for their prevention. Preventive strategies include taking a daily multivitamin with folic acid; avoiding alcohol and tobacco use; maintaining a healthy weight; 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 Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, the Teratology Society, and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network, and many dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, and parent groups, in bringing awareness to this important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2013, 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.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR

Secretary of State
SECRETARY OF STATE