



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Birth defects can occur in any family, regardless of race, health history, economic status, or education level; and
- WHEREAS: Birth defects affect one in every thirty-three babies and account for almost 100 infant deaths in Minnesota every year; and
- WHEREAS: Congenital heart defects, conditions present at birth that 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, improves 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, as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, and parent groups in bringing awareness to this important cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2012 as:

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



A blue ink signature of Mark Dayton, the Governor of Minnesota.

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 6th day of January.

A black ink signature of Mark Dayton, the Governor of Minnesota.

GOVERNOR