STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Each year in the United States, more than 40,000 babies are born with a congenital heart defect; and

WHEREAS: Congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defects, and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths, as identified by the medical community; and

WHEREAS: Medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects; yet, many newborns are not routinely screened and some cases are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS: Undiagnosed congenital heart defects cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS: More than one million families across the United States face the challenges of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS: It is crucial that parents, pediatricians, and all those in the health profession have a greater awareness of the potential for congenital heart defects among newborns and children; and

WHEREAS: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides the opportunity for families and patients affected by these conditions to share their experiences and knowledge with the public in order to increase awareness of the effects of congenital heart defects on the lives of all Minnesotans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of February 7-14, 2013 as:

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

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 18th day of January.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE