

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, one in every thirty-three babies in South Carolina is born with a birth defect, a condition that affects the structure or function of their body; and

WHEREAS, while medical advancements have greatly improved the health and survival of these individuals, many of these conditions are lifelong and require extended care; and

WHEREAS, everyone's journey is unique, shaped by their specific condition, individual strengths, and the support systems in place; and

WHEREAS, because knowledge empowers parents to make the best choices for their child's future, understanding the child's condition is essential to making informed decisions about their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Public Health, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs partner to connect and provide families with early intervention services to help children receive the right care and resources they need to thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

BIRTH DEFECTS AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the partners of the South Carolina Birth Defects Surveillance and Prevention Program for their efforts to support those with birth defects in the Palmetto State.



Handwritten signature of Henry Dargan McMaster.

HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA