



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, the health and wellbeing of all children throughout our state are of paramount importance to Alabama's families and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including approximately 40,000 children in the United States who begin life with one of more than thirty-five identified forms of congenital heart defects; and*

*WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are among Alabama's most common birth defects and they can be fatal due to their seriousness, insufficient effective medical intervention options and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and*

*WHEREAS, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously thanks to doctors' and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of knowledge every day; and*

*WHEREAS, there is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects and it is important for parents, pediatricians and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and*

*WHEREAS, many of Alabama's families and communities are directly or indirectly affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects, and I applaud the efforts of doctors and scientists everywhere who work diligently to solve life's medical mysteries and to improve the quality of life for us all;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 7 – February 15, as*

# Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2021.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor