

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Congenital Heart Defects are structural problems with the heart present at birth. The defects can range from “holes” between the chambers of the heart to severe malformations such as an absence of one or more chambers of valves; and

**Whereas** Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths in the United States; and

**Whereas** According to the American Heart Association, 1,000,000 Americans have Congenital Heart Defects and approximately 40,000 babies are born with it each year; and

**Whereas** Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth. Undiagnosed conditions can cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of the illness among all Massachusetts citizens,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, to be

## CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this seventh day of February, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts