



*WHEREAS, the health and well-being of all children throughout our State are of paramount importance to Colorado's families and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, thousands of children are born with heart disease 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 the most common birth defect in the United States, with nearly one in one hundred babies born each year with a heart defect; and*

*WHEREAS, advances and innovations in pediatric cardiology have increased long-term survival of children born with congenital heart defects; and*

*WHEREAS, for more than a decade, the number of adults with congenital heart defects exceeds the number of children with congenital heart defects, and this number continues to grow exponentially; and*

*WHEREAS, congenital heart disease requires lifelong specialized cardiac care; and*

*WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are among our State'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 heart donors; and*

*WHEREAS, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart disease 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 disease and it is important for parents, pediatricians, and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart disease among newborns so they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and*

*WHEREAS, many of Colorado's families and communities are directly or indirectly affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart disease, and I applaud the efforts of the health care community that is working diligently to solve medical mysteries and to improve the quality of life for us all;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period of time between February 7 and February 14, 2024, as*

**CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this seventh day of February, 2024*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor