**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7 - 14, 2013, AS CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF THIS SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUE AFFECTING SO MANY CITIZENS.

Whereas, congenital heart defects are the most frequent occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth‑defect‑related deaths worldwide; and

Whereas, more than one million families across the nation are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

Whereas, every year as many as forty thousand babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects; and

Whereas, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

Whereas, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions can cause sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

Whereas, there is a need for increased awareness of congenital heart defects and support for continued research; and

Whereas, the observance of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

Whereas, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week also will provide the opportunity to share experiences and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, proclaim the week of February 7 - 14, 2013 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in South Carolina for the purpose of encouraging early detection and treatment of this serious health issue affecting so many citizens.

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