



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** Each year, nearly 2,000 babies in Minnesota are diagnosed with a birth defect – a condition that affects the structure or function of the body and can impact the way an infant develops; and

**WHEREAS:** Birth defects can vary widely in how and where they affect the body. While medical advancements have greatly improved the health and survival of individuals with birth defects, many of these conditions are lifelong and require extended care; and

**WHEREAS:** Knowledge empowers parents to make the best choices for their child's future. Understanding their child's condition is essential to making informed decisions about their health and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS:** Early identification and early intervention can help a child receive the right care and resources they need to thrive; and

**WHEREAS:** Communities play an integral role in the lives of individuals and families affected by birth defects. For families navigating this journey, connecting with others who share similar experiences can be a helpful source of support, advice, and understanding; and

**WHEREAS:** A cross-sector focus on inclusion encourages welcoming environments that benefit children, families, and the communities where they live.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as:

## BIRTH DEFECT AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.



  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE