



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR**

April 19, 2026

Dawn Ireland
Attn: CDH International
3650 Rogers Road, # 290
Wake Forest, NC 27587-9306

Dear CDH International,

I am writing to acknowledge April 19 as Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day. This day is dedicated to spreading awareness and knowledge about congenital diaphragmatic hernias (CDH), a congenital disorder that occurs when a baby's diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth.

Since 2000, an estimated 800,000 babies have been born with CDH, and just 50% of those babies survived past infancy. Each year in the United States, an average of 1,600 babies are born with CDH. There are many people living in North Carolina who have been diagnosed with and have survived their CDH, although many families have endured the horrible pain and grief of losing a loved one with CDH.

I commend the team at CDH International for providing meaningful education and advocacy about this congenital disorder. I want to also recognize the medical experts who are working to advance our understanding of CDH and continue the search for more effective treatments.

This April 19, I ask all North Carolinians to join me in recognizing Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day. May we take this opportunity to educate ourselves and offer support to those who have lost someone to this disorder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein
Governor