



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) is a life-threatening condition that is as prevalent as several types of cardiovascular heart defects and can be diagnosed prenatally or during the immediate newborn period or later in life; however, very few people know about it or are aware of it; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in every 3,030 babies has a diaphragmatic hernia at birth in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a healthcare provider usually diagnoses a diaphragmatic hernia before the baby's birth by ultrasound; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, ultrasounds during pregnancy do not show diaphragmatic hernia, but providers may give the diagnosis at birth after noticing the baby has trouble breathing; and

WHEREAS, while national average survival rates are 65-70 percent, survival depends on multiple factors, such as severity, prematurity, lower birth weight, and presence of other congenital anomalies; and

WHEREAS, although many families in New Jersey have experienced the loss of loved ones with CDH, there are many individuals living in New Jersey who have been diagnosed with, and have survived their CDH condition; and

WHEREAS, those with CDH often ensure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, and developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 19, 2026

AS

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA  
AWARENESS DAY

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Dale G. Caldwell*

Lt. GOVERNOR

*Mikie Sherrill*

GOVERNOR