

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, one in every 2,500 pregnancies is diagnosed with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH); and,*

*WHEREAS, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia occurs when a baby's diaphragm fails to form fully, allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth; and,*

*WHEREAS, since 2000, it is estimated that over 800,000 babies have been born with CDH, and only 50 percent of those babies have survived; and*

*WHEREAS, approximately 1,600 babies are born with CDH every year in the United States; and,*

*WHEREAS, CDH is as common as Spina Bifida and Cystic Fibrosis, but very few people are aware of it; and,*

*WHEREAS, many people in Illinois have been diagnosed with and have survived CDH, although many families in Illinois have endured the horrible pain and grief associated with the loss of loved ones with CDH; and,*

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

*WHEREAS, raising awareness of CDH will help bring acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances;*

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2026 to be **Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month** in Illinois.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
this SEVENTEENTH day of APRIL, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-SIX, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and SEVENTH.



*Alexi Giannouch*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR