

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, every year 40,000 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 cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that parents, pediatricians, and all those in the health profession have greater awareness of the potential for congenital heart defects among newborn babies; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2013 as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 31st day of January, A.D. 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor