

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** one in every 2,500 pregnancies is diagnosed with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH), with an estimated 1,600 babies born with it each year in the United States; and
- Whereas,** this life-threatening birth defect occurs when a baby's diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and severely preventing lung growth; and
- Whereas,** despite being as common as Spina Bifida and Cystic Fibrosis, very few people are aware of congenital diaphragmatic hernia; and
- Whereas,** since 2000, over 800,000 babies have been born with CDH, though sadly, only 50 percent have survived; and
- Whereas,** individuals with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and potential medical complications, including heart defects, pulmonary issues, gastric and intestinal problems, and developmental delays, often requiring respiratory and medicinal support for many years; and
- Whereas,** some residents of the Mountain State have been diagnosed with and survived CDH and their families have endured the profound pain and grief associated with the loss of loved ones to this condition; 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, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 19, 2026*, as:

Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

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

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Nineteenth Day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State