

SENATE RESOLUTION
8616

By Senator Brown

1 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of every child in the State of
2 Washington is of paramount importance; and
3 WHEREAS, This year in the United States, forty thousand babies
4 will be born with holes inside the walls of their heart; leaky heart
5 valves; missing, misplaced, or poorly formed blood vessels and heart
6 chambers and other heart structure issues known as a congenital heart
7 defect (CHD). Twenty-five percent of these babies will undergo heart
8 surgeries and other interventions just to survive; and
9 WHEREAS, CHDs are responsible for more deaths than any other
10 birth defect, accounting for one percent of all births. These deaths
11 often occur when the baby is less than twenty-eight days old. More
12 than half of babies go undiagnosed before birth and some others are
13 not diagnosed until years later. If a baby's mother, father, or
14 sibling has a CHD the baby's risk of being born with a CHD increases
15 by three times, making up almost twenty percent of all cases; and
16 WHEREAS, There is a need to continue supporting medical research
17 to gain a better understanding on how to recognize symptoms of CHDs.
18 Because of improved treatments and interventions there are now more
19 adults with CHD than there are babies; and
20 WHEREAS, Medical advancements have given patients a better chance
21 at survival and eighty-five percent of babies born with CHD now live
22 to at least eighteen years of age. But these adults face risky life-
23 long health problems including developmental delays, heart rhythm
24 problems, heart failure, sudden cardiac arrest, and stroke; and
25 WHEREAS, Three-year-old Camden, who has already undergone seven
26 surgeries, two of which were major open heart surgeries, was born
27 with a congenital heart defect in June of 2011 and was told in March
28 of last year that he would not live to see his third birthday.
29 Against all odds, Camden is on his way to his fourth birthday this
30 year; and
31 WHEREAS, Camden's courage has inspired the legislature to
32 recognize Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, offering the
33 opportunity for affected families and patients to share their

1 experiences with the public in order to raise awareness and
2 remember the lives of loved ones lost;
3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
4 Senate, in honor of the bravery of Camden and others like him,
5 celebrate the American Heart Association's designation of the
6 week of February 7 through 14 in 2015 and each succeeding year
7 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

8 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
9 do hereby certify that this is a true and
10 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8616,
11 adopted by the Senate
12 February 12, 2015

13 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
14 Secretary of the Senate