

HOUSE RESOLUTION 175

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to commemorate February 7-14, 2018, as
"Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week" in
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, congenital heart disease is the lifelong consequence of a heart defect or a structural abnormality of the heart present at birth; and

WHEREAS, the most common birth defect, congenital heart disease affects 40,000 infants born in the United States each year, and it is the number one cause of birth-defect-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of children born with congenital heart disease need heart surgery or other interventions to survive; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 2.4 million individuals living with congenital heart disease, a lifelong disease that requires ongoing, specialized care; and

WHEREAS, less than ten percent of adults with congenital heart disease are receiving recommended care; and

WHEREAS, costs for hospitalizations related to congenital heart disease were more than \$6 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, there is at present no cure for congenital heart disease, and little is understood regarding how to prevent heart defects; thanks to medical advances, children with congenital heart defects are living longer, but much work remains to be done; and

WHEREAS, the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association seeks to empower patients and their families by providing them with educational resources they need to achieve the highest quality care available to them throughout their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association also advocates for patients, representing the patient voice in research collaboratives and individual research programs; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week is one of the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association's many initiatives in support of the patients it serves; it is an opportunity for families who have been affected by this disease to celebrate life and remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week will also provide the opportunity for those affected to share experiences and information with the public and the media in an effort to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association in commemorating February 7-14, 2018, as "Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week" and encourage all citizens to increase their awareness of, and support education and services for, congenital heart disease, which affects thousands of infants in Tennessee annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.