State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, a congenital diaphragmatic hernia is an opening in the diaphragm that allows the abdominal organs to push into the chest cavity; and

WHEREAS, a congenital diaphragmatic hernia is often a life-threatening birth defect because it limits the growth of the lungs; and

WHEREAS, a congenital diaphragmatic hernia occurs in roughly 1 in 2,000 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, congenital diaphragmatic hernias account for 8% of all major congenital anomalies; and

WHEREAS, proactive diagnosis and appropriate management of fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernias minimizes the incidence of emergency situations, dramatically improving survival rates; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased public awareness of congenital diaphragmatic hernias; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, groups such as Breath of Hope, Inc. are working to promote public awareness and encourage research efforts to one day prevent or successfully treat all those diagnosed with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Week will provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about the congenital diaphragmatic hernia birth defect; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim March 25-31, 2013 as Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Week in Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to join me in recognizing the importance of this week.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 19th day of March, 2013

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State