

Senate Resolution No. 23

Introduced by Senator Fuller

Relative to Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) occurs when the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs to migrate into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth; and

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes CDH as a birth defect; and

WHEREAS, The majority of CDH patients suffer from underdeveloped lungs or poor pulmonary function; and

WHEREAS, Babies born with CDH endure extended hospital stays in intensive care with multiple surgeries; and

WHEREAS, CDH patients often endure long-term complications, such as pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary hypoplasia, asthma, gastrointestinal reflex, feeding disorders, and developmental delays; and

WHEREAS, CDH survivors sometimes endure long-term mechanical ventilation dependency, skeletal malformations, supplemental oxygen dependency, enteral and parenteral nutrition, and hypoxic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, CDH is treated through mechanical ventilation, a heart and lung bypass, which is commonly known as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), machines, and surgical repair; and

WHEREAS, Surgical repair is often not a permanent solution for CDH and can lead to reherniation and require additional surgery; and

WHEREAS, CDH is diagnosed in utero in less than 50 percent of cases; and

WHEREAS, Infants born with CDH have a high mortality rate, averaging 50 percent, regardless of the level of severity of the defect; and

WHEREAS, CDH has a rate of occurrence of 1 in every 2,500 live births worldwide; and

WHEREAS, CDH affects approximately 1,600 babies each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, CDH has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since 2000; and

WHEREAS, CDH does not discriminate based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, The cause of CDH is unknown; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate declares the month of April 2015 as California Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month, and calls upon all Californians to observe the month of April by participating in appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages that steps should be taken to: (1) raise awareness of and increase public knowledge about CDH; (2) inform all Californians about the dangers of CDH, especially those groups that may be disproportionately affected by CDH or that have lower survival rates; (3) disseminate information on the importance of quality neonatal care of CDH patients; (4) promote quality prenatal care and ultrasounds to detect CDH in utero; and (5) support research funding of CDH to improve screening and treatment for CDH, discover the causes of CDH, and develop a cure for CDH; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages residents, interest groups, and affected individuals to take an active role in the fight against this devastating birth defect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 23 read and adopted by the Senate April 30, 2015.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate