

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) is a birth defect that occurs when the diaphragm fails to form or to close totally and an opening allows abdominal organs into the chest cavity, which inhibits lung growth; CDH occurs in approximately 1 in every 2,500 births with 1,600 cases in the U.S. each year; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1995, CHERUBS – The Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness, and Support is an international charity that has helped over 4,700 families in 60 countries; the organization is the world's first and largest CDH charity; and

WHEREAS, CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis, however, very few know about it or are aware of it; since 2000, it is estimated that over 500,000 babies have been born with CDH and, unfortunately, only 50 percent of those children survived; and

WHEREAS, those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications beyond their diagnosis that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is proud to support the efforts of CHERUBS in raising awareness about this serious condition; all children deserve to be given their best chance, and through continued research and support we will hopefully one day see a cure and world free of CDH.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2014 as "A Day of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness" in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19th day of April, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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