

STATE OF OREGON  
**PROCLAMATION**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

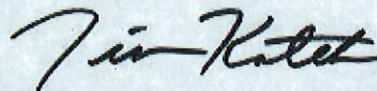
- WHEREAS:** A commitment to supporting maternal and child health creates a better Oregon; and
- WHEREAS:** Steps can be taken to support a healthy pregnancy, such as having access to affordable and culturally-responsive health care, taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, and stopping alcohol or drug use during pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS:** Even when steps are taken to support a healthy pregnancy, birth anomalies still occur among families of every race, ethnicity, health history, and socioeconomic status, including an estimated 2,000 infants in Oregon each year; and
- WHEREAS:** The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention observes National Birth Defects Awareness Month each January, and although birth anomalies are sometimes referred to as birth “defects”, persons affected are not “defective”; and
- WHEREAS:** Early identification and intervention services, family peer support, and community connections improve the lives of children and families, and enrich our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** We can all create environments in which children with birth anomalies can meet their full potential and lead important roles in our communities without limits.

**NOW,  
THEREFORE:** I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **January 2024** to be

**OREGON BIRTH ANOMALIES AWARENESS MONTH**

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, January 9, 2024.



Tina Kotek, Governor



LaVonne Griffin-Valade, Secretary of State

