

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4621, by Representative Klippert

1 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of every child in the State of  
2 Washington is of paramount importance; and

3 WHEREAS, This year in the United States, 40,000 babies will be  
4 born with holes inside the walls of their heart; leaky heart valves;  
5 missing, misplaced, or poorly formed blood vessels and heart  
6 chambers; and other heart structure issues, collectively known as  
7 congenital heart defects; and

8 WHEREAS, 25 percent of these babies born with congenital heart  
9 defects will undergo heart surgeries and other interventions just to  
10 survive; and

11 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are responsible for more deaths  
12 than any other birth defect, accounting for 1 percent of all deaths  
13 and often occurring when the baby is less than 28 days old; and

14 WHEREAS, More than half of babies born with congenital heart  
15 defects are undiagnosed before birth, and others are not diagnosed  
16 until years later; and

17 WHEREAS, If a baby's mother, father, or sibling has a congenital  
18 heart defect, the baby's risk of being born with a congenital heart  
19 defect increases by three times, making up almost 20 percent of all  
20 cases; and

21 WHEREAS, There is a need to continue supporting medical research  
22 to gain a better understanding of how to recognize symptoms of  
23 congenital heart defects; and

24 WHEREAS, Improved treatments and interventions have given  
25 congenital heart defect patients a better chance at survival, and 85  
26 percent of babies born with congenital heart defects now live to at  
27 least 18 years of age, resulting in more adults today with congenital  
28 heart defects than there are babies; and

29 WHEREAS, Adults with congenital heart defects face risky lifelong  
30 health problems, including developmental delays, heart rhythm  
31 problems, heart failure, sudden cardiac arrest, and stroke; and

32 WHEREAS, Three year old Camden, who has already undergone seven  
33 surgeries, including two major open heart surgeries, was born with a  
34 congenital heart defect in June of 2011 and told in March of last

1 year that he would not live to see his third birthday; against all  
2 odds, Camden is on his way to his fourth birthday this year; and

3 WHEREAS, The International Children's Medical Alliance and the  
4 American Academy of Pediatrics recognize the week of February 7th to  
5 February 14th as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, offering the  
6 opportunity for affected families and patients to share their  
7 experiences with the public in order to raise awareness and remember  
8 the lives of lost loved ones;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
10 of Representatives, in honor of the bravery of Camden and others like  
11 him, support the observance of the week of February 7, 2015, to  
12 February 14, 2015, as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

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14 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
15 Resolution 4621 adopted by the House of Representatives  
16 March 4, 2015  
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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk