



**Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19<sup>th</sup> District  
House Health Committee  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Senate Bill 11 – Sponsor Testimony**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for hearing sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 11.

Senate Bill 11 designates Feb. 7 – 14 of every year as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week with the goal of promoting awareness and education about congenital heart defects (CHDs). The bill aligns the awareness week with the nationally recognized awareness week for Congenital Heart Defects. Per the CDC, congenital heart defects affect approximately 1 in 100 births every year in the U.S. and are the most common type of birth defect. These specific kinds of defects are lifelong conditions and as of 2010, an estimated 1 million children and 1.4 million adults in the United States are living with a congenital heart defect.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, on a global level, roughly 1.35 million babies are born each year with a CHD.<sup>2</sup> Despite the worldwide prevalence of CHDs, funding for research into these conditions is low, mainly due to lack of public awareness.

To explain further just how important Senate Bill 11 is on promoting awareness about CHDs, I have listed below the **17** most common types of heart defects as they are listed on the American Heart Association website.<sup>3</sup>

- Aortic Valve Stenosis (AVS)
- Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)
- Coarctation of the Aorta (CoA)
- Complete Atrioventricular Canal defect (CAVC)
- d-Transposition of the Great Arteries
- Ebstein's Anomaly
- Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
- l-Transposition of the Great Arteries
- Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)
- Pulmonary Atresia
- Pulmonary Valve Stenosis
- Single Ventricle Defects
- Tetralogy of Fallot

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6604a7.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aarc.org/n20-congenital-heart-defects-awareness-week-2020/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/about-congenital-heart-defects>

- Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection (TAPVC)
- Tricuspid Atresia
- Truncus Arteriosus
- Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)

Babies born with a congenital heart defect often, but not always, have the same set of symptoms including trouble breathing, poor weight gain, and poor circulation. A misdiagnosis and/or a delay in diagnosing a CHD can cause significant hurdles and complications for an individual later in life. My hope is that through Senate Bill 11, we help raise awareness of the world's most common birth defect by encouraging and educating parents and health professionals to be aware of these symptoms and the underlying condition. In doing so, the individuals and their families will be prepared to face and overcome the challenges of living with a congenital heart defect.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 11 and I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.