

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069
Toll free (888) 269-3879



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
Fax (907) 269-0223

District 25

House Concurrent Resolution 9 Sponsor Statement

The diaphragm is formed in the first trimester of pregnancy and controls the lungs' ability to inhale and exhale. Congenital diaphragmatic hernias (CDH) occur when the diaphragm fails to form or to close totally and an opening allows abdominal organs into the chest cavity. This inhibits lung growth. CDH has a mortality rate of roughly 50%, and occurs in approximately 1 in every 2,500 births (1,600 cases in the U.S. each year). Of the 50% that do survive, most will endure long hospital stays, feeding issues, asthma and other problems. A few of the survivors suffer from severe long-term medical issues. The cause of CDH is not yet known.

CDH occurs as frequently as Spina Bifida and Cystic Fibrosis, yet there is comparatively very little research being done and virtually no media coverage. House Concurrent Resolution 9 aims to raise awareness of this condition, provide support and for victims and their families, and encourage the research needed to establish the cause and possible prevention by proclaiming April 19th, 2015 as a CDH Day of Action. CDH Days of Action for 2015 have been proclaimed in 14 states and 9 towns, including Anchorage.