State of Nevada Executive Department

A Proclamation by the Governor

***WHEREAS**, orofacial clefts are the most commonly occurring birth defects in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and approximately one in every 600 infants in the United States is born with a cleft lip and/or palate; and*

***WHEREAS**, the rate of occurrence of cleft lip and/or palate is approximately one in every 500 births for some minority and already underserved populations; even more infants in the United States are born with a variety of complex craniofacial conditions and syndromes, many of which are life-threatening; and*

***WHEREAS**, thousands of children, youth and adults are survivors of burns, trauma, illness and disease resulting in facial disfigurement and the complicated medical issues associated with them and cleft/craniofacial birth anomalies and acquired facial differences occur across all socio-economic, age and racial demographics; and*

***WHEREAS,** awareness of cleft/craniofacial conditions and their causes should be heightened to better coordinate current programs with the many families, businesses, schools, and community and faith-based organizations working to assist cleft/craniofacial patients and their families; and the general public is mostly unaware that these conditions occur with great frequency in the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, organizations such as AmeriFace and many others are dedicated to bringing attention to the healthcare and psychosocial needs of the cleft/craniofacial community, coordinating services with care providers and stakeholders to promote quality medical care and support services for patients and their families and AmeriFace is celebrating 25 years of service to the cleft/craniofacial community; and*

***WHEREAS**, Nevada supports the education, prevention, treatment and advocacy issues promoted through such programs of assistance for cleft/craniofacial patients;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,** do hereby proclaim July 2016 as*

CLEFT AND CRANIOFACIAL AWARENESS MONTH IN NEVADA

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 18th day of July, 2016.

Governor

By the Governor:

Barbara K. Cegavske

Secretary of State

By

Deputy