

[100's of Cherubs Descend Upon Capitol Hill To Raise Awareness of Mysterious Birth Defect](#)

Sessions to Address Parade of Cherubs in Washington to Raise Awareness for Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH)

Online PR News â€“ 17-April-2012 â€“ On Thursday, April 19, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) will meet with over 250 people participating in a Parade of Cherubs in Washington, DC, to raise awareness of a birth defect called congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). Sen. Sessions two-year old grandson, Jim Beau, is a CDH survivor. In Jim Beau's honor, the Senators family will take part in the event, and Sen. Sessions is requesting a Congressional Bill for the benefit of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research.

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CDH is a birth defect of the diaphragm. It occurs when the diaphragm fails to form or to close totally and an opening allows abdominal organs into the chest cavity, inhibiting lung growth. CDH affects approximately one in every 2,500 babies, or about 1,600 babies in the United States each year. It is as common as cystic fibrosis and spina bifida. 50% of babies born with CDH do not survive. The cause is unknown.

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CDH awareness and research is very important and especially to me because my grandson, Jim Beau, was born with CDH in 2009, said Senator Sessions. This is a life threatening birth defect that not many people have heard about. Only 50 percent of the babies survive and that number could and should be higher. Research and awareness are key and we are excited that CHERUBS chose to parade in DC this year.

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The parade has been organized through CHERUBS, a North Carolina-based grassroots nonprofit organization started by Dawn Williamson whose son, Shane, died in 1999 at the age of six from CDH complications. Children donned in wings will begin the three-mile walk at 10:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Memorial; they will travel past the Washington Monument and the White House, and conclude at the U.S. Capitol Building.

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Several other cities across the U.S. are hosting a Cherubs parade on the same day including, Chicago and Peoria, Ill.; Denver; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; and St. Louis. The St. Louis Fetal Treatment Institute, known for conducting in utero procedures on CDH babies, has been an integral part of organizing their local event. There will also be a national candle lighting in the U.K.

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Image Gallery



Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia strikes 1600 babies each year in the U.S.





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