AN ACT

Relating to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a chronic cardiac disease involving the thickening of the heart muscle which can potentially lead to debilitating symptoms and serious complications, including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke and in rare cases sudden cardiac death; and

Whereas HCM is the most common inheritable heart disease and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity, with a reported prevalence ranging from 1 in 200 to 1 in 500 in the general population; and

Whereas an estimated 700,000 to 1,650,000 people in the United States have HCM, yet 85 percent of them remain undiagnosed; and

Whereas HCM shares symptoms with other common cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, including shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, palpitations and fainting, making it difficult to distinguish HCM from those other diseases; and

Whereas all-cause mortality risk is three to four times higher in patients with untreated HCM than that of the general population; and

Whereas knowing one’s medical history and being familiar with the signs and symptoms of HCM is an important first step in receiving an accurate diagnosis of HCM; and

Whereas to help identify the risk of cardiac disorders, health care providers must first conduct thorough screenings with cardiac health questions; and

Whereas health care providers may also conduct several tests, including an echocardiogram, a cardiac MRI, and genetic testing, to confirm a family history of HCM, but must also examine the heart to diagnose HCM; and

Whereas following a diagnosis of HCM, it is important for patients to work with their health care provider to learn more about their disease and understand different management options, including prescription medicines and surgical treatment options; and

Whereas HCM awareness is critically important in improving the cardiovascular health of Oregonians; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The fourth Wednesday in February of each year is designated as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day.

SECTION 2. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.