



HR0821

LRB099 14597 MST 38734 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In October of 2015, the National Down Syndrome
3 Society (NDSS) will be celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness
4 Month; and

5 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full
6 or partial extra copy of chromosome 21; this additional genetic
7 material alters the course of development and causes the
8 characteristics typically associated with Down syndrome; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every 691 babies in the United States is
10 born with Down syndrome, making it the most common genetic
11 condition; approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome
12 and about 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born in the
13 United States each year; and

14 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and
15 economic levels; and

16 WHEREAS, The cause of the extra full or partial chromosome
17 is still unknown; maternal age is the only factor that has been
18 linked to an increased chance of having a baby with Down
19 syndrome; and

20 WHEREAS, People with Down syndrome have an increased risk

1 for certain medical conditions such as congenital heart
2 defects, respiratory and hearing problems, Alzheimer's
3 disease, childhood leukemia, and thyroid conditions; many of
4 these conditions are now treatable, so many people with Down
5 syndrome lead healthy lives; life expectancy for people with
6 Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades -
7 from 25 in 1983 to 60 today; and

8 WHEREAS, People with Down syndrome attend school, work,
9 participate in decisions that affect them, and contribute to
10 society in many wonderful ways; and

11 WHEREAS, Quality educational programs, a stimulating home
12 environment, good health care, and positive support from
13 family, friends, and the community enable people with Down
14 syndrome to develop their full potential and lead fulfilling
15 lives; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 recognize the National Down Syndrome Society's October 2015
19 celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness Month; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the NDSS as a symbol of our respect and esteem.