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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Approximately one in every 700 babies in the
3 United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome
4 the most common chromosomal condition and about 6,000 babies
5 with Down syndrome are born in the United States each year; and

6 WHEREAS, The lives of people with Down syndrome have been
7 transformed over the past half century; as recently as the
8 early 1980s, the average life span of those with Down syndrome
9 was 25 years; today, the life expectancy is approximately 60
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, The length and quality of life of those with Down
12 syndrome have been transformed; today, many adults with Down
13 syndrome live semi-independently or even on their own, leading
14 healthy and productive lives, complete with jobs, volunteer
15 work, recreational activities, and personal relationships; and

16 WHEREAS, The Adult Down Syndrome Center of Advocate Medical
17 Group at Advocate Lutheran General was established in 1992 at
18 the request of leaders of the National Association for Down
19 Syndrome (NADS) who desired a clinic for adults with Down
20 syndrome; the hospital took a leap of faith and assigned Brian
21 Chicoine, MD, the newest faculty member in the Family Medicine
22 department, to help launch a practice; and

1 WHEREAS, The Center began a twice-a-month clinic that
2 served less than 100 patients; today, it has grown into a
3 five-day-a-week primary care practice providing approximately
4 7,000 patient visits annually, making it the busiest and most
5 experienced clinic of its kind in the nation, as well as a
6 leader in research, education, and the dissemination; and

7 WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, the Center has been
8 dedicated to its mission of enhancing the well-being of
9 adolescents and adults with Down syndrome using a team approach
10 to provide comprehensive, community-based health care
11 services; it is guided by three principles: 1) health is more
12 than the absence of disease; it involves physical, mental, and
13 spiritual well-being; 2) individuals with Down syndrome should
14 become active participants in their health care; and 3)
15 research, health-promoting education, and the dissemination of
16 research findings and best practices in health promotion will
17 improve care for people with Down syndrome and foster
18 understanding, acceptance, and inclusion; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Chicoine is supported by a talented staff of
20 medical professionals, including a physician, registered and
21 licensed dietitian, nurse practitioner, licensed clinical
22 social worker, licensed occupational therapist, two patient
23 advocates, three certified medical assistants, patient

1 representative, clinical coordinator, and practice manager;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Compared to the general population, adults with
4 Down syndrome experience greater incidence of congenital heart
5 abnormalities, thyroid problems, obesity, type-1 diabetes,
6 vision problems, hearing loss, and Alzheimer's disease; they
7 also experience less common conditions such as heart attacks,
8 high blood pressure, solid cancer tumors, and strokes; the
9 Center's patient database has the potential to be instrumental
10 in unlocking these mysteries; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to medical care, the Center's programs
12 focus on health promotion and psychosocial skills, training to
13 help individuals with Down syndrome lead healthy and productive
14 lives; the Center disseminates health promotion resources and
15 research findings through collaborations, publications, and
16 events that communicate the experience and findings of the
17 initiative to people with Down syndrome, their families, and
18 health care professionals; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 declare March 15, 2017 as Adult Down Syndrome Awareness Day in
22 the State of Illinois; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Adult Down Syndrome Center of Advocate Medical
3 Group at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital as an expression of
4 our esteem and respect.