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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In October of 2017, the National Down Syndrome
3 Society (NDSS), the National Association for Down Syndrome
4 (NADS), and Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
5 will be celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Month; and

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

10 WHEREAS, One in every 792 babies in the United States is
11 born with Down syndrome, making it the most common genetic
12 condition; approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome
13 and about 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born in the
14 United States each year; and

15 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and
16 socio-economic levels; and

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

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

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

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

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 recognize the National Down Syndrome Society's October 2017
20 celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness Month; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to these organizations as a symbol of our respect and

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1 esteem.