



SR0239

LRB101 11695 MST 58169 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a chromosomal anomaly that occurs
3 in one out of every 700 to 1,000 births; and

4 WHEREAS, Down syndrome affects all races and ethnicities in
5 all parts of the world; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, the number of babies born with Down syndrome has
8 increased by 30 percent over the past 40 years; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Adequate access to health care, early
14 intervention programs, and inclusive education, as well as
15 appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development
16 of individuals with Down syndrome; and

17 WHEREAS, The inherent dignity, worth, and valuable
18 contributions of persons with Down syndrome as promoters of
19 well-being and diversity of their communities, and the
20 importance of their individual autonomy and independence,

1 including the freedom to make their own choices should be
2 recognized; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals with Down syndrome attend school,
4 work, participate in decisions that affect them, have
5 meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society in
6 many wonderful ways; and

7 WHEREAS, This inclusiveness facilitates the participation
8 of individuals with Down syndrome in society and helps them
9 fulfill their personal potential; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Buddy Walk Program helps raise
11 awareness and funds for programs that benefit people with Down
12 syndrome and their families, and the Special Olympics raises
13 awareness and allows individuals with Down syndrome, and other
14 intellectual disabilities, to discover new strengths and
15 abilities, skills, and success; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly
17 declared March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day to be observed
18 every year beginning in 2012 and invited all to observe World
19 Down Syndrome Day in order to raise public awareness of Down
20 syndrome; and

21 WHEREAS, The 21st day of the third month was selected to

1 signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st
2 chromosome which causes Down syndrome; and

3 WHEREAS, The observation of World Down Syndrome Day is
4 important in raising public awareness of Down syndrome,
5 creating a single voice of avocation of rights, inclusion, and
6 well-being; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 21,
9 2019 as Illinois Down Syndrome Day; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That all Illinoisans are encouraged to support
11 and participate in related activities; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Down Syndrome International.