



HR0257

LRB102 18217 ECR 25848 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the National Association of Down Syndrome on the 60th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome (NADS) was founded in Chicago in 1961 by Kay McGee; she chose to go against medical advice at the time and raise her child with Down syndrome at home; and

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WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome is now the oldest organization in the country serving individuals with Down syndrome and their families; and

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WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome has a simple mission of supporting people of all ages with Down syndrome in achieving their full potential; and

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WHEREAS, Over the last 60 years of fulfilling that mission, the National Association of Down Syndrome has provided families with members who have Down syndrome with information and resources to enable them to access and evaluate appropriate services, has educated the public about Down syndrome, has addressed social policy issues and challenges facing the Down syndrome community, and has

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1 facilitated and encouraged active participation by  
2 self-advocates and families in the delivery of education,  
3 vocational, residential, and other services for persons with  
4 Down syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome offers  
6 a plethora of services, including parent support, resource  
7 referrals, public awareness, a self-advocate program, and More  
8 Than Down Syndrome Retreats; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome was on  
10 the frontlines of advocating for the passing of the  
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1975; to this  
12 day, NADS is still fighting for more inclusive classrooms to  
13 create a brighter future for children with Down syndrome; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome has  
15 also worked to meet the needs of adults with Down syndrome by  
16 providing fellowships, work experience programs, and adult  
17 mentoring programs; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Association of Down Syndrome has  
19 always been interested in Down syndrome research; they have  
20 been at the forefront of research regarding many topics,  
21 including multiple studies of the hearts of both adults and  
22 children with Down syndrome; and

1           WHEREAS, It is appropriate to celebrate and recognize the  
2 milestones achieved, the growth, the progress, the  
3 perseverance, the achievements, the accomplishments, and, most  
4 importantly, the workers and families who have dedicated their  
5 lives to help the children and adults across the country who  
6 have Down syndrome; therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we congratulate the National Association of Down Syndrome on  
10 its 60th anniversary, and it is with deep and sincere  
11 gratitude and heartfelt appreciation that we hereby  
12 congratulate the past and present Board of Trustees and staff  
13 as well as all who have helped the growth of the National  
14 Association of Down Syndrome; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the National Association of Down Syndrome on June  
17 11th, 2021 at their celebration of the 60th anniversary as a  
18 symbol of our esteem and gratitude.