



HR0915

LRB098 20491 GRL 56446 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities should enjoy a full and
3 decent life, in conditions that ensure dignity, promote
4 self-reliance, facilitate active participation in the
5 community, and allow the full enjoyment of all human rights and
6 fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other persons; and

7 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a naturally occurring
8 chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the
9 human condition; this additional genetic material alters the
10 course of development and causes the characteristics
11 associated with Down syndrome; and

12 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring
13 chromosomal condition; one in every 691 babies in the United
14 States is born with Down syndrome; there are three types of
15 Down syndrome: trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) accounts for 95% of
16 cases, while translocation accounts for about 4% and mosaicism
17 accounts for about 1%; and

18 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and
19 economic levels; there are currently more than 400,000 people
20 living with Down syndrome in the United States; and

21 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 most people with Down
5 syndrome lead healthy lives; and

6 WHEREAS, Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has
7 increased dramatically in recent decades - from 25 in 1983 to
8 60 today; 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, All people with Down syndrome experience
12 cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild to moderate
13 and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that
14 each individual possesses; and

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

20 WHEREAS, March 21, 2014 marks the 9th annual World Down
21 Syndrome Day; people with Down syndrome, their families,
22 friends, teachers, coworkers and supporters will celebrate

1 across the globe; celebrated on the 21st day of the third month
2 of the year, the date is symbolic of the third copy of the 21st
3 chromosome that characterizes Down syndrome; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we show our support for and join in the celebration of World
7 Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2014 to raise awareness,
8 support, and recognition of the dignity, rights, and well-being
9 of people with Down syndrome throughout the State; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Gigi's Playhouse, an Illinois organization active
13 in Down syndrome advocacy.