**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DOWN SYNDROME, TO PROMOTE THEIR INCLUSION AND WELL‑BEING, AND TO DECLARE MARCH 21, 2014, AS “DOWN SYNDROME DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, fundamental human rights and freedoms, which our forefathers rightly declared are God’s gift to mankind, demand that citizens with disabilities be granted the protection of the law on an equal basis with other citizens. In addition, these disabled citizens should enjoy a full and decent life in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self‑reliance, and facilitate their active participation in the community; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the inherent dignity and worth, as well as the valuable contributions, of persons with intellectual disabilities as promoters of the well‑being and diversity of their communities. It is also critical to acknowledge the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices as their disabilities allow; and

Whereas, Down syndrome is a chromosomal arrangement that exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics, and health; and

Whereas, adequate access to health care, early‑intervention programs, inclusive education, and appropriate research are vital to the growth and development of individuals affected by Down syndrome; and

Whereas, on March 21, 2014, countries around the world will observe World Down Syndrome Day to raise public awareness in these matters, and it is entirely appropriate that the State of South Carolina should join this observance. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize the rights of citizens with Down syndrome, promote their inclusion and well‑being, and declare March 21, 2014, as “Down Syndrome Day” in South Carolina.

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