

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 356

Introduced by Brasch, 16; Albrecht, 17; Baker, 30; Blood, 3; Bolz, 29; Bostelman, 23; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41; Clements, 2; Ebke, 32; Erdman, 47; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hansen, 26; Harr, 8; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; Krist, 10; Kuehn, 38; Larson, 40; Lindstrom, 18; Lowe, 37; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Murante, 49; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Riepe, 12; Scheer, 19; Stinner, 48; Thibodeau, 6; Walz, 15; Watermeier, 1; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a congenital disorder caused by having an extra 21st chromosome; and

WHEREAS, the date for World Down Syndrome Day being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common genetic condition; and

WHEREAS, approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome and about 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, while research and early intervention have resulted in dramatic improvements in the life span and potential of those who are affected, more research is needed into diseases and illnesses that are more prevalent among people who have Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, possessing a wide range of abilities, people with Down syndrome are active participants in educational, occupational, social, and recreational circles of our communities; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with Down syndrome should have equal opportunity to achieve their desired goals of self-fulfillment, be valued for their achievements, be included in their community, and be encouraged to reach their full potential;

WHEREAS, in 2011, The United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Nebraska Legislature adopted Legislative Bill 891 to provide new and expectant parents with supportive and accurate information about a Down syndrome diagnosis that their child receives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Nebraska Legislature joins numerous countries, states, and communities by designating March 21, 2018, as Down Syndrome Awareness Day in Nebraska.

2. That the Nebraska Legislature recognizes the accomplishments of those in the state with Down syndrome and their families.