

House Resolution 469

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45th, Anulewicz of the 42nd, Seabaugh of the 34th, Washburn of the 144th, and Evans of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending March of Dimes upon its 85th anniversary; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to
3 fight polio, and it funded the development of two vaccines still in use today that virtually
4 eliminated the crippling disease; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1958, having achieved its initial mission, March of Dimes shifted its attention
6 from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and through federal and state advocacy, it led
7 the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects monitoring programs and
8 research centers; and

9 WHEREAS, March of Dimes has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research in
10 maternal and infant health, which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests
11 such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth
12 defects; and

13 WHEREAS, March of Dimes is a long-time advocate for access to health care for women
14 of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they have access to quality
15 affordable health care before, during, and after pregnancy through programs such as the

16 Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid postpartum extension coverage for one
17 full year after childbirth; and

18 WHEREAS, March of Dimes was a leading advocate for bipartisan legislation to ensure
19 reasonable accommodations in the workplace, leading to the passage and enactment of the
20 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; and

21 WHEREAS, March of Dimes in 2003 launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the
22 crisis of premature birth nationally and in states to help families have full-term healthy babies
23 as well as authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers
24 (PREEMIE) Act, which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education, and
25 services to fight premature births; and

26 WHEREAS, March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state
27 policies and programs to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, children,
28 and families.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend March of Dimes upon its 85th anniversary and
31 encourage the citizens of Atlanta and all Americans to celebrate the 85th year of this
32 outstanding institution and the essential contributions made by its volunteers, supporters, and
33 staff to the health of our nation.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
36 public and the press.