

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 118

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, May 9, 2018, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes supported the development of the polio vaccine which eradicated the disease from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the same polio vaccine continues to protect babies today, and through the support of the March of Dimes, there has not been a single outbreak of polio in the United States in more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, preterm birth is the number one killer of newborn babies in the first month of life; and

WHEREAS, over half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States, including 7,982 in Louisiana in 2016, a number that represents 12.6% of all births in the state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana recently received an "F" grade for its performance in preventing preterm births because one in eight babies are born preterm in the state; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has the worst preterm birth rate in the nation; 17.0% of Louisiana's preterm births occur in this parish; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, March of Dimes volunteers and staff from across the state are visiting the state capitol to raise awareness about the serious problem of preterm birth and to advocate for policies that improve the quality of care for Louisiana moms and babies; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a statewide and national effort to save babies from preterm birth by funding research, supporting programs that help families with a newborn in intensive care, and by advocating for funding for newborn screening, anti-tobacco policies, and neonatal abstinence syndrome policies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby welcome volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes and does hereby recognize Wednesday, May 9, 2018, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Louisiana citizens are hereby encouraged to support the March of Dimes in its efforts to reduce the number of preterm births and to assist newborns and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state director of the March of Dimes, Louisiana Chapter.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES