

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, May 8, 2012, as March of Dimes Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 and in its early years supported development of a vaccine that has virtually eliminated the crippling disease of polio; and

WHEREAS, currently, the March of Dimes is leading a state and national effort to prevent preterm birth by funding research to find the causes of this public health problem, supporting local programs that offer hope and help to families with an infant in intensive care, and advocating for public policies that will improve the quality of care for newborns; and

WHEREAS, preterm birth is the greatest contributing factor to newborns dying within their first month of life; and

WHEREAS, over half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over nine thousand five hundred preterm births occurred in Louisiana in 2009; and

WHEREAS, while Louisiana has significantly decreased its rate of preterm births as evidenced by an eight percent reduction in this rate since 2006, our state still ranks forty-ninth out of the fifty states, and one in every seven babies born in Louisiana is preterm; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2012, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes are visiting the Louisiana State Capitol to raise awareness about the serious consequences of preterm birth, to advocate for policies to improve the quality of care of preterm infants, and to support programs to prevent preterm birth.

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 recognize Tuesday, May 8, 2012, as March of Dimes Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Louisiana citizens are hereby encouraged to support the March of Dimes in its efforts to find the causes of preterm birth and to support home visitation programs and quality care improvement policies for stronger, healthier babies in Louisiana.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES