SLS 15RS-619 **ORIGINAL**

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR DONAHUE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to support that people with disabilities be allowed to live independently and become integrated and included in all facets of community living, and to designate April 29, 2015, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to support that people with disabilities be allowed to live independently and become integrated and included in all facets of community living, and to designate April 29, 2015, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, disability is a natural part of life and does not diminish the right of individuals with disabilities to exercise control over their lives and fully participate in the community; and

WHEREAS, children, regardless of the severity of their disability, need a nurturing home environment so each child is able to develop adult and family relationships to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, adults with developmental disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and live in typical homes and communities, so they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens; and

WHEREAS, almost thirteen thousand people are waiting for individual and family support and services that will allow them to live independently in their own home or with their family rather than being segregated from their community in a facility to receive

support, and this number continues to increase annually; and

WHEREAS, LaCAN is a statewide grassroots network of individuals, families, and other stakeholders advocating for individual and family support and services for Louisiana's citizens who experience developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, recognition of Disability Rights Day at the capitol allows individuals with disabilities and families from across Louisiana to meet and educate legislators on the issues impacting people with disabilities as well as rally support for individual and family support and services; and

WHEREAS, this marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers and changing perceptions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to support that people with disabilities be allowed to live independently and become integrated and included in all facets of community living, and it hereby designates April 29, 2015, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

SCR 37 Original 2015 Regular Session Donahue

Commends the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to support that people with disabilities be allowed to live independently and become integrated and included in all facets of community living, and to designate April 29, 2015, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.