

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATOR BARROW

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Commends the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, and designates April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy
3 network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to ensure that people with disabilities are
4 supported to live independently and are integrated and included in all facets of
5 community life, and to designate April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in
6 Louisiana.

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

10 WHEREAS, children, regardless of the severity of their disability, need families and
11 enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment, as with all children,
12 children with developmental disabilities need families and family relationships to develop
13 to their fullest potential; and

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

17 WHEREAS, over 13,800 people are waiting for individual and family support and
18 services that will allow them to live independently in their own home or with their family

1 rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive support;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the number of individuals with disabilities waiting for individual and
4 family support and services continues to increase annually; and

5 WHEREAS, many programs for people with disabilities are being threatened with
6 cuts or elimination; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Disability Rights Day at the Capitol allows individuals with disabilities
11 and families from across Louisiana to meet their legislators at the Capitol and educate them
12 on the issues impacting people with disabilities as well as to rally in support of individual
13 and family support and services.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy
16 network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to ensure that people with disabilities are
17 supported to live independently and are integrated and included in all facets of community
18 life.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 designate April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana, a day to celebrate that much
21 has been accomplished in Louisiana but also recognize that much work remains for all
22 people with disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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Commends the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for its advocacy efforts to ensure that people with disabilities are supported to live independently and are integrated and included in all facets of community life.

Designates April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.