

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 968

By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate "Down Syndrome Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a naturally occurring, lifelong genetic condition, occurring in one of every 800 live births worldwide, and is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition; and

WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome are living longer than ever before, and the life expectancy of individuals with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades—from twenty-five years in 1983 to sixty years today; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with Down syndrome are unique with variable levels of learning, communication, and physical abilities and a range of physical characteristics and health profiles; and

WHEREAS, access to research, health care, early intervention, speech and language, occupational and physical therapies, inclusive education, and employment and social opportunities are imperative to the development, progress, and independence of individuals with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, advancements in Down syndrome research have given doctors, therapists, and educators new tools to care for individuals with Down syndrome so that they may live healthy and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome are often fully integrated in social and educational settings and increasingly go on to graduate from high school and attend postsecondary education programs; and

WHEREAS, while placement in the workforce remains a challenge, career opportunities are improving, and adults with Down syndrome have attained a variety of positions, bringing enthusiasm, reliability, and dedication to their jobs; and

WHEREAS, advancements in education, research, inclusion, advocacy, and support programs have had a tremendous impact on the opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome to live fulfilling, successful lives; and

WHEREAS, we honor and commend the many achievements and valuable contributions that individuals with Down syndrome bring to our families, communities, and society; and

WHEREAS, further education, awareness, and support for Down syndrome is still needed today to ensure the dignity, success, and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the citizens of our great State as they commemorate "Down Syndrome Awareness Day" in Tennessee on March 21, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.