

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 101

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the Tennessee Disabilities Coalition, the United Cerebral Palsy Association, ARC of Tennessee, and TNCO for exemplary service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing those outstanding organizations and their employees who serve as advocates for the greater good and help to establish a better life for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, no finer collection of such organizations can be found than the Tennessee Disabilities Coalition, the United Cerebral Palsy Association, ARC of Tennessee, and TNCO, who resolutely led the charge for a stand-alone Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, working in close partnership, these inspirational groups brought illumination to the members of the general assembly as to the great need for a separate agency that would be the focus for services and programs for Tennesseans with developmental disabilities who had become overlooked by a scattered state system of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, for many years, families of persons with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation had been waiting for services; first seriously addressing the problem in 2000, the legislature's knowledge base of the issue grew with the advocacy of these outstanding organizations; and

WHEREAS, with the release of the Developmental Disabilities Task Force Report in 2007, the effort to create a stand-alone government agency led by these four organizations took flight and ultimately culminated in the new Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this body pauses to specially recognize the extraordinary efforts of this group of valiant advocates who have brought about change to benefit countless Tennesseans and their families today and for years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Tennessee Disabilities Coalition, the United Cerebral Palsy Association, ARC of Tennessee and TNCO for their many years of distinguished service to the citizens of Tennessee, and their tireless efforts that culminated in the creation of the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.