## 2019 Regular Session

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

### BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN AND CARPENTER

# SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 17, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To recognize Wednesday, April 17, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.
3	WHEREAS, the March of Dimes leads the fight to improve the health of all moms
4	and babies by supporting research, creating programs, and providing education and
5	advocacy; and
6	WHEREAS, through groundbreaking research at six prematurity research centers,
7	the March of Dimes has developed a collaborative model to study and prevent premature
8	birth; and
9	WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is committed to mobilizing the nation by
10	amplifying the voices of women and families; and
11	WHEREAS, in the state of Louisiana, more than twelve and one-half percent of
12	babies are born prematurely in a typical year; and
13	WHEREAS, on the March of Dimes 2018 Premature Birth Report Card, Louisiana
14	received a grade of "F" and a disparity index ranking of 1.34; and
15	WHEREAS, women of color are most at risk of facing birth complications, and black
16	women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy
17	than white women; and
18	WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes' report entitled "Nowhere to Go", in
19	Louisiana, twenty-four parishes are identified as maternal care deserts, thus indicating that
20	more than one-third of women in the state lack access to adequate maternity care; and

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1	WHEREAS, since they lack access to hospitals, obstetrician-gynecologists, and basic	
2	health insurance, women who are pregnant and give birth in maternal care deserts are more	
3	at risk of health complications related to pregnancy; and	
4	WHEREAS, in Louisiana, through programs and initiatives and through its	
5	participation on the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council, the March of Dimes	
6	has worked extensively to launch new programs and work with health partners to address	
7	maternal mortality and health disparities; and	
8	WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a statewide and national effort to save	
9	babies from preterm birth by funding research, supporting programs that help families with	
10	a newborn in intensive care, and by advocating for funding for newborn screening, anti-	
11	tobacco policies, neonatal abstinence syndrome policies, and paid leave policies; and	
12	WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, March of Dimes volunteers and staff	
13	from across the state are visiting the state capitol to raise awareness about the serious	
14	problem of preterm birth and to advocate for policies that improve the quality of care for	
15	moms and babies in Louisiana.	
16	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby	
17	recognize Wednesday, April 17, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.	
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Louisiana citizens are hereby encouraged to	
19	support the March of Dimes in its efforts to reduce the number of preterm births and to assis	
20	newborns and their families.	
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted	
22	to the regional director of advocacy and governmental affairs of the March of Dimes,	
23	Southeast region, Louisiana/Mississippi market.	

### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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