

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN AND CARPENTER AND SENATORS  
THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, April 17, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes leads the fight to improve the health of all moms and babies by supporting research, creating programs, and providing education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, through groundbreaking research at six prematurity research centers, the March of Dimes has developed a collaborative model to study and prevent premature birth; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is committed to mobilizing the nation by amplifying the voices of women and families; and

WHEREAS, in the state of Louisiana, more than twelve and one-half percent of babies are born prematurely in a typical year; and

WHEREAS, on the March of Dimes 2018 Premature Birth Report Card, Louisiana received a grade of "F" and a disparity index ranking of 1.34; and

WHEREAS, women of color are most at risk of facing birth complications, and black women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy than white women; and

WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes' report entitled "Nowhere to Go", in Louisiana, twenty-four parishes are identified as maternal care deserts, thus indicating that more than one-third of women in the state lack access to adequate maternity care; and

WHEREAS, since they lack access to hospitals, obstetrician-gynecologists, and basic health insurance, women who are pregnant and give birth in maternal care deserts are more at risk of health complications related to pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, through programs and initiatives and through its participation on the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council, the March of Dimes has worked extensively to launch new programs and work with health partners to address maternal mortality and health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a statewide and national effort to save babies from preterm birth by funding research, supporting programs that help families with a newborn in intensive care, and by advocating for funding for newborn screening, anti-tobacco policies, neonatal abstinence syndrome policies, and paid leave policies; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, March of Dimes volunteers and staff from across the state are visiting the state capitol to raise awareness about the serious problem of preterm birth and to advocate for policies that improve the quality of care for moms and babies in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, April 17, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Louisiana citizens are hereby encouraged to support the March of Dimes in its efforts to reduce the number of preterm births and to assist newborns and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the regional director of advocacy and governmental affairs of the March of Dimes, Southeast region, Louisiana/Mississippi market.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE