

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend 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, and to designate April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, over 13,800 people are waiting for individual and family support and services that will allow them to live independently in their own home or with their family rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive support; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend 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.

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES