SLS 17RS-409 **ORIGINAL**

2017 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR HEWITT

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Commends the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, and designates April 26, 2017, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, and designate April 26, 2017, as "Disability Rights Day" in Louisiana.

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

WHEREAS, children, regardless of the severity of their particular disability, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment to develop their full 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 fifteen thousand people in Louisiana are waiting for individual and family supports and services that will allow them to live in their own home or with their family rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive proper support; and

WHEREAS, the number of individuals with disabilities waiting for individual and

family supports and services continues to increase annually as some programs for these people have sustained budget cuts over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, a designation of Disability Rights Day would allow individuals with disabilities and their families from across Louisiana to meet with their legislators at the capitol and to educate them on the issues impacting people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such a designated day would also allow advocates to rally in support of individual and family supports and services; and

WHEREAS, the focus of this day will be entirely on the disability rights issues, which should bring this topic to the attention of the public at large, not just the elected representatives of Louisiana, who can, in turn, inform their representatives of each voter's position on this most important issue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, and designate April 26, 2017, as "Disability Rights Day" in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sandee Winchell, executive director of LaCAN.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

SCR 18 Original 2017 Regular Session Hewitt

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