

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 22, 2019, as Easterseals Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1919, Easterseals was formed to highlight and address the healthcare and service needs of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, in order to meet the needs of returning World War II veterans and other adults with disabilities, Easterseals expanded its child-focused mission by opening its programs and services to include adults; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Easterseals has strongly advocated for services and supports for individuals with disabilities, a fact evident in its authoring of a 1931 Bill of Rights for children with disabilities that helped pave the way for government-funded disability services and increased public awareness of the needs of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Easterseals has grown from its humble beginnings in Elyria, Ohio, to become an influential organization that oversees a network of leading nonprofit organizations in states across the country; and

WHEREAS, these organizations deliver high-quality services and supports to children and adults with disabilities, veterans, older adults, caregivers, and their families to help the disabled achieve milestones, live independently, and fully participate in the life of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Easterseals Louisiana was formed in 1951 to serve the people of Louisiana, and it currently has nearly two hundred employees in offices across the state who support more than 10,000 individuals with disabilities annually; and

WHEREAS, the programs instituted by Easterseals Louisiana include support coordination for home and community based waiver services, EarlySteps System Point of Entry, Transitional Housing, mental health rehabilitation, the Program for the Evaluation and Enrichment of Relational Skills, or PEERS, and Campership, which provides tuition assistance to disabled children and young adults to help them attend summer camp; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Easterseals is best summarized in the words of its founder Edgar Allen, a parent, businessman, and Rotarian, who once said that "Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what we give"; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2019, Easterseals will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 22, 2019, as Easterseals Day in Louisiana and does hereby commend Easterseals for its impact on the lives of millions of Americans and for its commitment to expanding possibilities for children and adults with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tracy Garner, President/CEO of Easterseals Louisiana.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES