SLS 26RS-819 **ORIGINAL**

2026 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR FOIL AND REPRESENTATIVE WILEY

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates Saturday, March 21, 2026, as World Down Syndrome Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Saturday, March 21, 2026, as World Down Syndrome Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and commend the efforts of the Down Syndrome Awareness Group and the various Buddy Walks occurring throughout the state.

WHEREAS, World Down Syndrome Day is observed annually, on March 21, to raise awareness and celebrate the lives and achievements of individuals with Down syndrome, as promoted by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS); and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21, thus the significance of holding the event on March 21, and said genetic condition can lead to developmental delays and intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome make valuable contributions to their families, communities, and society, and deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Down Syndrome Awareness Group is a nonprofit organization in Louisiana that works to support individuals with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, education, and community programs; and

WHEREAS, the Down Syndrome Awareness Group organizes an annual Buddy

Walk in Baton Rouge on or about March 21, to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and promote inclusion and acceptance and education; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Walks are community events held across the state of Louisiana to celebrate individuals with Down syndrome, promote acceptance and inclusion, and raise funds for programs and services that support them and their families with, among other things, swim lessons, vision care, legal services, summer camps, and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Walks provide an opportunity for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, friends, and allies to come together, raise awareness, and advocate for the rights and well-being of this community and have fun while doing so; and

WHEREAS, the Down Syndrome Awareness Group of Baton Rouge is hosting the Baton Rouge Buddy Walk on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., less than a thousand feet from the Louisiana State Capitol, and the public and the members of this body are encouraged to participate by attending the event or one like it closer to home.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Saturday, March 21, 2026, as World Down Syndrome Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and commends the efforts of the Down Syndrome Awareness Group and the various Buddy Walks occurring throughout the state in celebration of this important day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Down Syndrome Awareness Group.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SCR 13 Original 2026 Regular Session Foil

Designates Saturday, March 21, 2026, as World Down Syndrome Day at the La. State Capitol.