

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Boyd, England,
McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 531

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT MARCH 21, 2024, IS
2 "WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY IN MISSISSIPPI" TO ENCOURAGE AWARENESS
3 AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME.

4 WHEREAS, one in every 700 babies is born with Down syndrome,
5 representing approximately 6,000 births per year in the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, the National Down Syndrome Society, the leading
8 human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome,
9 envisions a world in which all people with Down syndrome have the
10 opportunity to enhance their equality of life, realize their life
11 aspirations and become valued members of welcoming communities;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, quality educational programs, stimulating home
14 environments, good health care and positive support from family,
15 friends and the community enable people with Down syndrome to lead
16 fulfilling and productive lives; and

17 WHEREAS, "World Down Syndrome Day" has been observed on March
18 21st since 2012. March 21st (3-21) was selected to signify the



19 uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes
20 Down syndrome; and

21 WHEREAS, recent advancements in Down syndrome research have
22 proven that early intervention, education, social support,
23 therapeutic care and positive public attitudes improve each
24 individual's chances of living an independent, productive and
25 satisfying life; and

26 WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome should have equal
27 opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of
28 self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their
29 community and reach their fullest potential; and

30 WHEREAS, in recent years, many federal statutes have given an
31 increasing amount of discretion to the states to ensure that
32 policies are implemented in the best interests of individuals with
33 intellectual disabilities, and advocacy work at the state level is
34 critical:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
36 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
37 we hereby declare that March 21, 2024, is "World Down Syndrome Day
38 in Mississippi" to encourage awareness and opportunities for
39 individuals with Down syndrome.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
41 the National Down Syndrome Society, the Mississippi Coalition for
42 Individuals with Disabilities and the Mississippi Department of



43 Mental Health for appropriate distribution, and be made available
44 to the Capitol Press Corps.

