

2022 RES-377
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH AND
NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME DAY

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan designated the month of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987, and, in 2012, the United Nations began to observe March 21 as National Down Syndrome Day to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes the syndrome; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 11,000 individuals in Dane County, Wisconsin have developmental disabilities and one in six children can have at least one developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), ADHD, and Fragile-X including Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the hopes and dreams of those born and living with developmental disabilities do not differ from the aspirations of other county residents to be self-sufficient, to work and earn a living, and to contribute to their community, and, like fellow residents, people with developmental disabilities have unique skills and talents that fortify Dane County's beautiful neurodiversity, and these residents continue to make substantial contributions that make Dane County a better place for us all; and

WHEREAS, Dane County is better when every one of us is able to thrive in the community; and

WHEREAS, students with developmental disabilities learn and thrive with their peers, and when adults with disabilities are equally included in the workforce, they also have the opportunity to contribute to our county's strong economy; and

WHEREAS, organizations throughout Dane County and their dedicated teams like Arc-Dane County, Developmental Disabilities Coalition of Dane County, Aging & Disability Resource Center, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Instruction, Madison School and Community Recreation and non-profit organizations like Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin, Beach Center on Families and Disabilities, Waisman Center, and GiGi's Playhouse support these individuals and ensure that they have access to opportunities and success; and

WHEREAS, these organizations raise awareness about how classrooms, workplaces, houses of worship, and everywhere else in our community is stronger when we lift up the abilities of all people; they also ensure inclusion in Dane County is not a goal, but a reality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors, recognizes March 2023 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month and March 21st as National Down Syndrome Day.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we encourage the community to come together to increase awareness about developmental disabilities and act to create full inclusion and equality for all.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2023.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk