

Senators Schmidt, Jones, Knollenberg, Proos, Robertson, Bieda, Schuitmaker, Hansen, Booher, Emmons, Ananich, MacGregor, Stamas, Zorn and Marleau offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 206.

A resolution to declare October 2016 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Whereas, Approximately one in every 800 children are born with Down syndrome, representing approximately 150 births per year in Michigan and 5,000 per year in the United States; and

Whereas, While research and early intervention have resulted in dramatic improvements in the lifespan and potential of those who are affected, more investigation is needed in the causes and treatment of Down syndrome; and

Whereas, People with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities, and are active participants in educational, occupational, social, and recreational circles of the community; and

Whereas, Developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995, the Buddy Walk is an annual event in cities across Michigan and the United States that celebrates the accomplishments of children and adults with Down syndrome; and

Whereas, Down syndrome associations throughout Michigan support families who have children with disabilities, and special healthcare needs and desires to increase the support network, services, and acceptance through advocacy and education for those with Down syndrome across our state; and

Whereas, The goal of the Buddy Walk is to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome while raising funds for local programs and national advocacy efforts; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body declare October 2016 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month and encourage all communities in Michigan to work together to promote the awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in education, employment, and community involvement, and to celebrate the accomplishments of all individuals and their families.