

House Resolution 14 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY L. MILLER

1 A Resolution honoring the March of Dimes Foundation for
2 its multifaceted and ongoing role in protecting the
3 health of mothers, infants, and children.

4 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation was a pioneer
5 in improving the health of infants and women of
6 childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature
7 birth, and infant mortality; and

8 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded by President
9 Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to fight polio, and
10 funded the development of two vaccines that virtually
11 eliminated the crippling disease; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1958, the March of Dimes, having
13 achieved its initial mission, shifted its attention
14 from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and
15 through federal and state advocacy led the way in
16 establishing a nationwide network of birth defects
17 monitoring programs and research centers; and

18 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has undertaken
19 decades of groundbreaking research in maternal and
20 child health, which has led to the discovery of
21 lifesaving products and tests such as surfactant
22 therapy for premature infants and tests to identify
23 life-threatening birth defects; and

24 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was a pioneer in the
25 support of newborn screening, urging Congress to pass
26 and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which
27 established national guidelines on the conditions
28 states should include in newborn programs, and through

1 state advocacy ensured that every state screens all
2 newborns for that core set of conditions; and

3 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is a long-time advocate
4 for access to health care for women of childbearing
5 age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they
6 have access to private and public health coverage; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2003, the March of Dimes launched
8 the prematurity campaign to address the crisis of
9 premature birth and help families have full-term,
10 healthy babies, and authored the Prematurity Research
11 Expansion and Education for Mothers who Deliver Infants
12 Early (PREEMIE) Act, to expand research, education, and
13 services to fight premature births; and

14 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has set a national goal
15 of reducing preterm births to 9.6 percent in every
16 state by 2020, which will result in a healthier start
17 in life for tens of thousands of infants; and

18 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes sponsors numerous
19 programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants,
20 such as its collaborative work with the Iowa Department
21 of Public Health and the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative
22 to prevent early elective deliveries and the Blank
23 Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Family
24 Support program; and

25 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes and its volunteers
26 continue to advocate for national and state health
27 policies and programs that affect Iowa women of
28 childbearing age, infants, children, and families,
29 including funding to support the hawk-i program and
30 the Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders

1 Registry; NOW THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

3 That the House of Representatives congratulates the

4 March of Dimes Iowa Chapter on its observance of the

5 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes and urges all

6 residents of Iowa to celebrate this year by supporting

7 the efforts of the March of Dimes through programs of

8 research, education, community services, and advocacy

9 to give every child a healthy start in life.