

By: Crownover

H.R. No. 268

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes Foundation is celebrating its
2 75th anniversary during 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, Established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in
4 1938, the original purpose of the March of Dimes was to fight polio,
5 and it helped fund the development of two vaccines in the 1950s to
6 safeguard individuals against the disease; following those
7 successes, the organization shifted its focus to the prevention of
8 birth defects in 1958; and

9 WHEREAS, In the decades since, the March of Dimes has been a
10 pioneer in the field, making groundbreaking advances in maternal
11 and child health; the group's research has led to the discovery of
12 lifesaving products and techniques such as surfactant therapy for
13 premature infants and tests to identify birth defects; and

14 WHEREAS, A longtime advocate for improved access to health
15 care for women, children, and families, the March of Dimes has
16 collaborated with elected officials in national and state
17 government to realize progress in this area; in 2003, the group
18 authored the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for
19 Mothers Who Deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Act, which became law
20 in 2006; two years later, Congress passed the Newborn Screening
21 Saves Lives Act, and the March of Dimes worked to ensure that every
22 state in the nation implemented the screening procedures detailed
23 in the legislation; and

24 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs in

1 Texas to support healthy pregnancies and infants; focusing on
2 community engagement and information sharing, these worthy
3 endeavors range from providing assistance to families with newborn
4 children in intensive care units to funding scholarships for
5 individuals pursuing careers in perinatal health care; and

6 WHEREAS, For three quarters of a century, the March of Dimes
7 and its dedicated volunteers have carried out important efforts to
8 improve the health of individuals throughout the United States, and
9 this admirable organization is sure to remain a positive force in
10 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
12 Legislature hereby honor the March of Dimes Foundation on its 75th
13 anniversary and extend to the Texas chapter of the organization
14 sincere best wishes for continued success.