

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4632, by Representatives Taylor, Ramel, Duerr, Schmick, Berry, Wylie, Thai, Orwall, Riccelli, Alvarado, Chapman, Chopp, Shavers, Walen, Bronoske, Ryu, Doglio, Leavitt, Berg, Fosse, Goodman, Santos, Gregerson, Mosbrucker, Street, Farivar, Klicker, Ramos, Cortes, Kloba, Macri, and Simmons

1 WHEREAS, March was recognized as Developmental Disabilities  
2 Awareness Month by former President Ronald Reagan in 1987, through  
3 Proclamation 5613; and

4 WHEREAS, Washington State has over 170,000 people with  
5 developmental disabilities primarily living in the community with  
6 their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Washington families care for their loved ones with  
8 developmental disabilities. Families, especially those caring for  
9 young children and senior families caring for adult children,  
10 experience diminished employment opportunities, housing insecurities,  
11 and a woefully undersupported caregiving workforce; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington state toddlers with developmental  
13 disabilities may begin experiencing discrimination and isolation at a  
14 young age, in child care centers and preschool settings; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington state students with developmental  
16 disabilities are often isolated in school, segregated in the learning  
17 environment, have lower graduation rates, and are more isolated after  
18 graduation than their nondisabled peers; and

19 WHEREAS, Developmentally disabled Washingtonians of color,  
20 developmentally disabled Washingtonians with language access needs,  
21 developmentally disabled Washingtonians who are gender nonbinary,  
22 lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered, and gender and sexuality

1 questioning, are at greater risk for living in poverty and isolation  
2 than their nondisabled, cis-gendered, heterosexual peers;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
4 support the resilience and courage of Washingtonians with  
5 developmental disabilities by highlighting their stories, their  
6 needs, and their hopes for thriving and inclusion in community-based  
7 settings.

--- END ---