

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 198

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Conrad, Jeter, and C. Graham (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 5, 2013

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE MARCH OF DIMES ON ITS
2 SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of
4 infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant
5 mortality; and

6 Whereas, the March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in
7 1938 to fight polio, and funded the development of two vaccines, still in use today, that
8 virtually eliminated the crippling disease; and

9 Whereas, the March of Dimes, in 1958, having achieved its initial mission, shifted
10 its attention from polio to the prevention of birth defects and, through federal and state
11 advocacy, led the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects monitoring
12 programs and research centers; and

13 Whereas, the March of Dimes has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research
14 in maternal and child health, which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests
15 such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth
16 defects; and

17 Whereas, the March of Dimes was a pioneer in the support of newborn screening,
18 urging Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which in 2008
19 established national guidelines on the conditions states should include in newborn programs,
20 and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for that core set of
21 conditions; and

22 Whereas, the March of Dimes is a long-time advocate for access to health care for
23 women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they have access to private
24 and public health coverage under private coverage, the State Children's Health Insurance
25 Program, Medicaid, Title V Block Grant, and the Affordable Care Act; and

26 Whereas, the March of Dimes in 2003 launched the Prematurity Campaign to
27 address the crisis of premature birth and help families have full-term healthy babies and
28 authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers (PREEMIE) Act,
29 which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education, and services to fight premature
30 births; and

31 Whereas, the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to
32 9.6% in every state by 2020, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of
33 infants; and



1 Whereas, the March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs to support healthy
2 pregnancies and infants, such as its work to prevent early elective deliveries and the NICU
3 Family Support program; and

4 Whereas, the March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national
5 and state health policies and programs that affect women of childbearing age, infants, children,
6 and families; Now, therefore,

7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

8 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of President
9 Franklin D. Roosevelt, who established the March of Dimes, and joins the North Carolina
10 Chapter on its observance of the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes.

11 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.