

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 173**

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Adams, 24; Ashford, 20; Avery, 28; Campbell, 25; Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Crawford, 45; Davis, 43; Dubas, 34; Gloor, 35; Harr, 8; Kolowski, 31; Lathrop, 12; Mello, 5; Nelson, 6; Pirsch, 4; Price, 3; Scheer, 19; Sullivan, 41; Watermeier, 1; Wightman, 36.

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

WHEREAS, after achieving its initial mission, in 1958 the March of Dimes shifted its focus from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and through federal and state advocacy led the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects monitoring programs and research centers; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2003 the March of Dimes launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the crisis of premature births and help families have full-term, healthy babies and authored the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers Who Deliver Infants Early Act which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education, and services to fight premature births; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was a pioneer in the support of newborn screening and urged Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves

Lives Act which established national guidelines in 2008 on the conditions states should include in newborn programs, and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for that core set of conditions; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is a longtime advocate for access to health care for mothers, infants, children, and families to ensure they have access to private and public health coverage, including under the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid, the Title V Block Grant Program, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

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

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants, such as its work to prevent early elective deliveries and the Newborn Intensive Care Unit Family Support Program; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation has been a pioneer in preventing birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality and March of Dimes volunteers continue to advocate for national and state health policies and programs that improve the health of mothers, infants, children, and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature extends special recognition to the Nebraska Chapter of the March of Dimes on its observance of the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Rosemary Opbroek,  
Executive Director of the Nebraska Chapter of the March of Dimes.