

By Senator Jones

13-02412-12

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 1, 2012, as  
3 "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, the Arc of Florida, a member of a national  
6 community-based advocacy organization, The Arc, is the statewide  
7 non-profit charity whose mission is to improve the quality of  
8 life for all Floridians with developmental disabilities by  
9 advocating for public policies and high-quality supports to  
10 improve their lives, and

11 WHEREAS, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council,  
12 Inc., is the Florida entity charged by the Federal Government  
13 with advocating for programs that promote positive system  
14 changes, allow persons with developmental disabilities to  
15 achieve optimum independence, and promote innovative practices  
16 that improve the quality of life for these individuals, and

17 WHEREAS, living a life with developmental disabilities is a  
18 natural part of the human experience that in no way diminishes  
19 the rights of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-  
20 determination, make choices, contribute to communities, and  
21 experience the economic, political, social, cultural, and  
22 educational mainstreams of society, and

23 WHEREAS, "inclusion" means that all individuals, with and  
24 without disabilities, live, learn, work, play, and participate  
25 together in all life experiences, and

26 WHEREAS, the State of Florida supports more than 57,000  
27 citizens with developmental disabilities through services  
28 provided by state programs in the Agency for Persons with  
29 Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration, Blind

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30 Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation, and by dozens of  
31 partner organizations and thousands of private sector and  
32 community providers, and

33 WHEREAS, the Arc of Florida and the Florida Developmental  
34 Disabilities Council, Inc., sponsor events such as  
35 "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" which offers a  
36 setting for agencies and organizations to provide information  
37 about services available for persons with disabilities and  
38 promotes understanding about the challenges and obstacles in  
39 their everyday lives, and

40 WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" is an  
41 appropriate time to recognize Florida's public policy  
42 accomplishments that have improved the lives of persons with  
43 disabilities and to identify the changes to public policy needed  
44 to fully include all of Florida's citizens with developmental  
45 disabilities, and

46 WHEREAS, the Arc of Florida and the Florida Developmental  
47 Disabilities Council, Inc., encourage Floridians to actively  
48 participate in events that recognize and celebrate Florida's  
49 diverse population, including persons with developmental  
50 disabilities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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52 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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54 That the members of the Florida Senate recognize February  
55 1, 2012, as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" in  
56 Florida.