

Enrolled
House Bill 2591

Sponsored by Representative HAYDEN; Representative PARRISH (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

Whereas Williams syndrome is a rare genetic condition that is present at birth, affects as many as 30,000 individuals in the United States and is characterized by lifelong medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays and learning disabilities; and

Whereas Williams syndrome was first described by New Zealand cardiologist J.C.P. Williams in 1961; and

Whereas individuals with Williams syndrome often have medical and cognitive problems that occur side-by-side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music; and

Whereas it is estimated that one in every 10,000 persons worldwide is affected by Williams syndrome; and

Whereas individuals with Williams syndrome need costly, ongoing medical care and early interventions such as speech, physical and occupational therapy; and

Whereas adults with Williams syndrome often struggle with spatial relationships, abstract reasoning and processing nuanced social cues, making it difficult to maintain social interactions and lasting relationships; and

Whereas many adults with Williams syndrome contribute to their communities as volunteers or through employment, but few are able to be self-sufficient; and

Whereas the Williams Syndrome Association was founded in 1982 as a nonprofit organization; and

Whereas the Williams Syndrome Association is a comprehensive resource for people and families living with Williams syndrome as well as for doctors, researchers and educators; and

Whereas Williams Syndrome Association efforts in raising public awareness, increasing funding for critical new research and providing valuable information and support to families have improved the quality of life and futures of those affected by Williams syndrome; and

Whereas the Williams Syndrome Association seeks to further generate awareness about Williams syndrome and raise additional funding for programs and initiatives that aid those with Williams syndrome through organizing the month of May of each year as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month; and

Whereas the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon commends the Williams Syndrome Association for their hard work, compassion and courage in aiding those with Williams Syndrome and educating this state about this rare disorder; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The month of May of each year is designated as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

Passed by House April 5, 2017

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate May 25, 2017

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2017

Approved:

.....M,....., 2017

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2017

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Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State