

House Bill 2591

Sponsored by Representative HAYDEN; Representative PARRISH (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates month of May of each year as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

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

6 Whereas Williams syndrome was first described by New Zealand cardiologist J.C.P. Williams in
7 1961; and

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

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

13 Whereas individuals with Williams syndrome need costly, ongoing medical care and early inter-
14 ventions such as speech, physical and occupational therapy; and

15 Whereas adults with Williams syndrome often struggle with spatial relationships, abstract rea-
16 soning and processing nuanced social cues, making it difficult to maintain social interactions and
17 lasting relationships; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 Whereas the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon commends the Williams
32 Syndrome Association for their hard work, compassion and courage in aiding those with Williams

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Syndrome and educating this state about this rare disorder; now, therefore,

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

3 **SECTION 1. The month of May of each year is designated as Williams Syndrome**

4 **Awareness Month.**

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