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APPROVED
DEC 30 1974

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 19 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**Subject: Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224 - March of Dimes
Birth Defects Prevention Month
Sponsor - Sen. Montoya (D) New Mexico and 31 others**

*Announced in
Colorado
12/30
To Archives
1/2/75*

Last Day for Action

December 30, 1974 - Monday

Purpose

Authorizes and requests the President to proclaim the month of January 1975 as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month."

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare

No objection
(informal)

Discussion

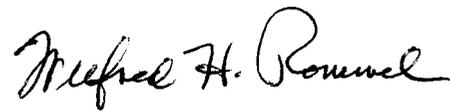
S.J. Res. 224 would authorize and request you to designate January 1975 as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Month." It would also invite the Governors to issue similar proclamations and would urge the people of the United States to consider the problem of birth defects and to support programs designed to prevent their occurrence.

The Senate report accompanying S.J. Res. 224 states that an estimated 15 million Americans suffer birth defects serious enough to affect their daily lives. According to the report, these include 3 million mentally retarded, 4 million diabetics, 1 million with congenital bone, muscle or joint disease, 500,000 totally or partially blind, 750,000 with impaired hearing, 350,000 with congenital heart or circulatory defects, and 100,000 with severe speech problems.



The Senate report notes that the National Foundation/March of Dimes began in 1958, with its victory over polio, to focus its full resources on the campaign against birth defects. The March of Dimes effort is directed both to the prevention of birth defects and to the treatment of those born with disease or damage due to prenatal factors.

HEW has prepared and we have reviewed the attached proclamation which would carry out the request in the bill.



Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Last Day: December 30

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

KEN COIE

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects
Prevention Month

Attached for your consideration is S.J. Res. 224, sponsored by Senator Montoya and thirteen others, which authorizes and requests you to proclaim the month of January 1975 as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month."

OMB recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in its enrolled bill report (Tab A).

Max Friedersdorf, Phil Areeda both recommend approval. Paul Theis has approved the text of the proclamation.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S.J. Res. 224 (Tab B)

That you sign the Proclamation (Tab C)



MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

By the President of the United States

A PROCLAMATION

The nation's most precious resource is our children, but each year about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of a birth defect and in the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects handed from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, and the cause of others is still unknown.

The discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to the parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some birth defects are obvious, such as the undeveloped limbs of babies whose mothers took the drug thalidomide. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. Today, the problems presented by birth defects are different than they were 10 years ago. The damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus could virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine, and a further reduction in many birth defects can be made using other knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help to protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that this Administration recognize the efforts of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, the other health professionals, and the voluntary organizations who work so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the Month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month--prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels--national, state, and local--voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge the citizens of this country to fight against birth defects and particularly encourage all mothers to appreciate the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day
of , in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four,
and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and
ninety-ninth.

Date: December 21, 1974

Time: 4:00 p.m.

OK / ONF

FOR ACTION: Pam Needham
Max Friedersdorf
Phil Areeda
✓ Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
Jerry Jones

yc 12/23/74

1974 DEC 23 AM 10 38

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, December 26

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Week

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 820

Date: December 21, 1974

Time: 4:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Pam Needham *ok*
Max Friedersdorf *ok*
Phil Areeda *ok*
Paul Theis *ok* cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, December 26

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Week

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 820

Date: December 21, 1974

Time: 4:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Pam Needham ✓
Max Friedersdorf
Phil Areeda
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, December 26

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Week

recd. 12/23/74

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: WARREN HENDRIKS

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*

SUBJECT: Action Memorandum - Log No. 820
Enrolled Resolution S. J. Res 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Week

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment



Date: December 21, 1974

Time: 4:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Pam Needham
Max Friedersdorf
Phil Areeda ✓
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Thursday, December 26

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Resolution S.J. Res. 224
March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Week

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

*h. Johnston
Phil Areeda
12/23*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

*Part
Three*

By the President of the United States

A PROCLAMATION

The nation's most precious resource is our children. ^{however,} ~~At~~ ^{Each} year about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. ^{and} in the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects ~~passed~~ from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, ^{while} ~~and~~ the cause of others is still unknown.

The discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to the parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. ~~Some birth defects are obvious, such as the undeveloped limbs of babies whose mothers took the drug thalidomide.~~ Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. ~~Today,~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ problems presented by ~~birth~~ ^{these} ~~are~~ ^{today} are different than they were 10 years ago. ~~The~~ ^{car} damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus ~~could~~ ^{can} virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. ~~and a~~ ^{s/} further reduction ~~in many~~ ^{of} birth defects can be made using ~~other~~ ^{the} knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help ~~to~~ protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.



Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that ~~this Administration recognize the efforts of~~ ^{be recognized} medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, ~~the~~ other health professionals, and ~~the~~ voluntary organizations ~~who~~ ^{work} so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the Month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month--prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels--national, state, and local--voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge ~~the~~ ^{that} citizens of this country ~~to~~ ^{to} fight against birth defects and particularly ~~encourage~~ ^{emphasize} all mothers ~~to appreciate~~ the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day
of , in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four,
and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and
ninety-ninth.

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH, 1975

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

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Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine.



Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

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I urge everyone: government officials at all levels -- national, state, and local -- voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

Harold R. Ford

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH, 1975

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

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(MORE)

NOW, THEREFORE, I GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

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I urge everyone: government officials at all levels -- national, state, and local -- voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

#

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER 21, 1974.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HRUSKA, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 224]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the joint resolution to authorize and request the President to issue annually a proclamation designating January of each year as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month," having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments, and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

AMENDMENTS

On page 1, line 4, delete the word "annually".

On page 1, line 5, following the word "January" insert ", 1975, "

Amend the title to read: "To authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating January, 1975, as 'March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month'."

PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS

The purpose of the amendments is to limit the bill to a nonrecurring proclamation applying to January 1975 only.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the bill, as amended, is to authorize and request the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating January, 1975, as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month", inviting the Governors of the States to issue similar proclamations and urging the people to participate in programs to prevent the occurrence of such defects.

STATEMENT

Senate Joint Resolution 224 was introduced by Senator Joseph M. Montoya on July 27, 1974. Thirty-one Senators have joined as cosponsors.¹

¹ Senators McIntyre, Ribicoff, Randolph, Hart, Clark, Pell, Stevenson, Pastore, Bible, Humphrey, Tunney, Beall, Kennedy, Young, Hollings, Percy, Inouye, Hughes, McGovern, Moss, Abourezk, Mansfield, Bentsen, Domenici, McGee, Eagleton, Church, Taft, Hartke, Javits, Clark.

The problem of birth defects affects the lives of all Americans. Every year, about 250,000 babies are born in this country with some type of defect—mental or physical. This amounts to almost 1 in 14 births or 700 babies a day—about 7 percent of all live births. Official statistics indicate that of those born alive more than 60,000 die each year in infancy, childhood, or in adult life as a direct result of birth defects.

A 10-year study conducted at the University of Florida College of Medicine suggests that birth defects cause some 129,000 deaths a year, more than twice the officially reported number. Birth defects are implicated in fully half the deaths of preschool children and are responsible for the death of almost two-fifths of elementary school age youngsters. In addition, there are some 500,000 spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, and miscarriages each year due to defective fetal development.

Altogether the committee takes note that more than 560,000 lives a year are destroyed by birth defects. Only heart disease claims more lives.

As a result, birth defects are estimated to cost the United States some \$80 billion annually in lost lifetime earnings. Because this loss begins with birth, rather than late in life, it is more than four times greater than for any other disease. In addition, some 1,200,000 are hospitalized in the United States each year for the treatment of birth defects at an estimated cost of over \$800 million.

It is estimated that approximately 15 million Americans suffer from birth defects serious enough to affect their daily lives. These include 3 million mentally retarded, 4 million diabetics, 1 million with congenital bone, muscle, or joint disease, 500,000 totally or partially blind, 750,000 with impaired hearing, 350,000 with congenital heart or circulatory defects, and 100,000 with severe speech problems.

With its victory over polio, the National Foundation/March of Dimes began in 1958 to focus its full resources on the campaign against birth defects. Its efforts are directed both to the prevention of birth defects and to the treatment of those born with disease or damage due to prenatal factors.

For nearly 40 years, the March of Dimes has had a concentration of public education and publicity during the month of January. Each year, January has been proclaimed March of Dimes Month by numerous Governors and mayors. The following States have declared a March of Dimes month in January at least once since 1970: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

In the crusade against birth defects, the committee recognizes it is necessary for the people of the United States to consider fully the nationwide problem and its effect on present and future generations. Passage of Senate Joint Resolution 224 will further promote the efforts of the March of Dimes and serve as an appropriate vehicle through which information about education, nutrition and prevention of birth defects can be fully transmitted to the public.

In agreement with the foregoing views, the committee recommends that the resolution be agreed to.





Ninety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four*

Joint Resolution

To authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating January, 1975, as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month".

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating January, 1975, as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month";

(2) inviting the Governors of the States and territories of the United States to issue proclamations for like purposes; and

(3) urging the people of the United States to consider fully the nationwide problem of birth defects and their effect on future generations, and to support all essential programs to prevent their occurrence.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

December 18, 1974

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on December 18th:

S.J. Res. 224 ✓*	S. 319 ✓*
S.J. Res. 260 ✓*	S. 4013 ✓*
S. 425 ✓*	H.R. 7978 ✓*
S. 939 ✓*	H.R. 8193 ✓*
S. 2343 ✓	H.R. 8864 ✓

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.