

1 HR325
2 170366-1
3 By Representative South
4 RFD:
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7
8 RECOGNIZING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF
9 VELOCARDIOFACIAL SYNDROME.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
12 recognize the invaluable efforts to raise awareness of
13 Velocardiofacial Syndrome (VCFS); and

14 WHEREAS, VCFS is a genetic condition caused by the
15 deletion of a small piece of chromosome 22 that causes many
16 physical changes to the body, such as the formation of
17 distinct facial features, and can lead to heart, bone, and
18 immune system disorders, among other complications; and

19 WHEREAS, also known as 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and
20 DiGeorge Syndrome, VCFS may include such symptoms as cleft
21 palate, heart complications, learning difficulties, poor
22 eyesight, middle-ear infections, seizures resulting from low
23 levels of parathyroid hormone (PTH), low resistance to
24 infection, weak muscles, scoliosis, and low calcium levels;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, VCFS is inherited in approximately 10 to 15
27 percent of cases, but is the result of a spontaneous mutation

1 in some 80 to 95 percent of cases; while VCFS is known to
2 affect approximately one in 4,000 newborns, this estimate may
3 be low because not every person with VCFS displays significant
4 symptoms and may never be diagnosed; and

5 WHEREAS, VCFS can be diagnosed based on a physical
6 exam and the presence of standard symptoms; a blood test
7 called FISH (Fluorescence in situ hybridization) can be done
8 and more detailed genetic tests are possible but rare because
9 they require much more sophisticated laboratory techniques;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the physical problems caused by VCFS are
12 treated by dealing with symptoms; heart defects and cleft
13 palates are treated surgically, children with low calcium or
14 PTH levels can take supplements, and counseling, physical
15 therapy, and speech therapy should begin early in life to
16 assess developmental problems and manage learning delays; and

17 WHEREAS, the indispensable key to progress in the
18 battle against VCFS is awareness, and those involved in this
19 essential undertaking are truly deserving of recognition; now
20 therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That it is a privilege to commend
23 the meritorious efforts to raise awareness about VCFS, and by
24 copy of this resolution we extend our best wishes for success
25 in this worthy endeavor.