



2009 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 27

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Jesse T. Alswager.

2 Whereas, Jesse T. Alswager, a tireless advocate for people with type 1 diabetes,
3 passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at the age of 13, due to
4 sudden complications from diabetes; and

5 Whereas, Jesse, the son of Tom Alswager and Michelle Page Alswager, was born
6 on September 24, 1996, at Meriter Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin; and

7 Whereas, Jesse was in the seventh grade at Toki Middle School and previously
8 attended Huegel Elementary School, both in Madison; and

9 Whereas, at the age of three, Jesse was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; and

10 Whereas, in 2000, on his fourth birthday, Jesse and his family did the first Team
11 Alswager Walk for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, raising \$22,000; and

12 Whereas, Jesse's efforts to find a cure for diabetes and help those with the
13 disease included traveling to Washington, D.C., at age six in 2003 with the Juvenile
14 Diabetes Research Foundation Children's Congress, testifying before a United
15 States Senate hearing with Mary Tyler Moore, the International Chairperson of

1 JDRF, and pushing for stem cell research in meetings with Senators Russ Feingold
2 and Herb Kohl, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, and Tommy Thompson, who was
3 at that time the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

4 Whereas, Governor Jim Doyle recognized Jesse's work with the Children's
5 Congress during the 2006 Wisconsin State of the State address; and

6 Whereas, for the past five years, Jesse and his close friend Aaron Liebe, also
7 diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age three, have been the Junior Ambassadors for
8 Thunder Run Ride for the Cure, a benefit to raise money for diabetes research; and

9 Whereas, Jesse and his dad were to participate in the Thunder Run ride this
10 July; and

11 Whereas, Jesse reached out to kids nationwide who had diabetes and needed
12 someone to talk to; and

13 Whereas, Jesse was one of the inspirations for professional snowboarder Sean
14 Busby, a type 1 diabetic, to start and run the Riding on Insulin camps for kids with
15 diabetes, so they can learn snowboarding safely, with the oversight of doctors
16 working with the program; and

17 Whereas 1,000 people attended Jesse's memorial service, and Sean Busby came
18 from California to speak; and

19 Whereas, Jesse's mother, Michelle, who served as the executive director of the
20 Western Wisconsin chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, plans to
21 participate in the JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes 100-mile bike ride in Death Valley,
22 California, in October 2010 so that Jesse's advocacy will continue after his death; and

23 Whereas, even in death, Jesse has inspired groups nationwide to hold diabetes
24 fundraisers in his name, including 40 people from Madison who will ride in his name
25 at this year's Death Valley bike ride; and

1 Whereas, Jesse enjoyed music tremendously, was a talented drummer and
2 guitarist, and played frequently at the High Noon Saloon in Madison; and

3 Whereas, Jesse loved sports, especially skateboarding, baseball, and
4 snowboarding; and

5 Whereas, Jesse was known as “the chill kid” for his peacekeeping ability,
6 infectious love of life, and kind regard for everyone he met; and

7 Whereas, Jesse was a light in the eyes of those who knew him and was a
8 tremendously strong advocate in the face of a devastating chronic disease; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin assembly
11 commend Jesse Alswager for his service on behalf of people with diabetes, both in
12 Wisconsin and nationally, for his unwavering spirit in the face of adversity, and for
13 the joy and humor he brought to his family and community; and, be it further

14 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin assembly expresses its deep sorrow at Jesse’s
15 death and extends its sincere condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
17 to Jesse’s parents, Michelle Page Alswager and Tom Alswager, of Madison,
18 Wisconsin.

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(END)