March 9, 2017 – Introduced by Representative RODRIGUEZ. Referred to Committee on Rules.


Whereas, World Birth Defects Day is observed annually on March 3; and

Whereas, birth defects are a leading cause of death in the first year of life, causing one in 5 infant deaths. These conditions lead to $2.6 billion per year in hospital costs alone in the United States; and

Whereas, in Wisconsin, birth defects account for about 23.3 percent of all infant deaths every year; and

Whereas, birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history, economic status, or level of education; and

Whereas, early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child’s quality of life and may even save his or her life; and

Whereas, understanding the potential causes of birth defects can lead to recommendations, policies, and services to help prevent them; and
Whereas, information from birth defects surveillance systems is used by public
health officials, policymakers, and scientists for investigating possible causes of and
risk factors for birth defects, educating the public about birth defects and how to
prevent them, and referring babies and families affected by birth defects to
appropriate services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That the Wisconsin Assembly hereby proclaims
March 3, 2017, as Birth Defects Day in Wisconsin to raise awareness of birth defects
in an effort to support healthy birth outcomes.

(END)