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A resolution by Supervisors Martin and Taylor, recognizing October as annual Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Milwaukee County and promoting awareness, advocacy, and inclusion throughout the community, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that can alter physical and intellectual development as a result of the presence of an extra chromosome; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs in approximately one in every 792 live births, and is the most frequently occurring chromosomal disorder; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome can also have comorbid health complications, most commonly congenital heart defects, and including respiratory, vision, and hearing problems, amongst others; and

WHEREAS, individuals can greatly benefit from early intervention services, which maximize development, such as physical, occupational, speech, and developmental therapies; and

WHEREAS, awareness and education of, and access to such programs are critical for new parents and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, national organizations, such as the National Down Syndrome Society and the National Association for Down Syndrome, advocate for Federal and State policies that positively impact individuals with Down syndrome, including healthcare, education, economic self-sufficiency, and employment policies; and

WHEREAS, early intervention services and advocacy efforts have aided the increase in life expectancy for individuals with Down syndrome, from 25 years old in 1983 to 60 years old today; and

WHEREAS, the National Down Syndrome Society started Down Syndrome Awareness Month in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month provides an opportunity to spread awareness, advocacy, and inclusion throughout the community through the celebration of individuals with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) is committed to supporting all members of its community by enabling access to healthcare, education, employment, and other factors that lead to fulfilling and productive lives; and

46 WHEREAS, the County should help to promote awareness, advocacy, and
47 inclusion of Down Syndrome Awareness Month in its own community; and
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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
50 January 29, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 19-964 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,
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52 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recognize the
53 month of October as annual Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Milwaukee County
54 for the promotion of awareness, advocacy, and inclusion throughout the community.
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59 S:\Committees\2020\Jan\HHN\Resolutions\19-964 November as Down Syndrome Awareness Month.docx