

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATOR SHAW AND REPRESENTATIVE DOERGE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Coleson Andrew Shaw for his strength and bravery throughout his illness with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia and extends best wishes for a continued, healthy, active life.

WHEREAS, Coleson Andrew Shaw was born a beautiful baby boy on April 21, 2001, and appeared to be perfectly healthy, but nurses soon noticed he was extremely pale, and after a blood test it was determined that he was in desperate need of a blood transfusion, after which it appeared that everything was fine, but it was soon discovered that was not the case, as young Coleson's body was unable to produce red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, after doing a bone marrow aspirate, he was diagnosed with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia, which is an incurable and rare form of anemia, with limited treatment options; and

WHEREAS, after his body did not respond to treatment with steroids, Coleson began receiving blood transfusions every four weeks for the first six years of his life, combined with chelation therapy, where he was hooked to an infusion pump for twelve hours a night, six nights a week, in an effort to remove the excess iron that was building up in his body from the regular transfusions; and

WHEREAS, despite these hardships, young Coleson remained a trooper and his family traveled across the country, seeking the best medical advice in hopes of finding a cure; and

WHEREAS, as time passed, and because of advances in medicine, a bone marrow transplant became an available option, and his older brother Cade, was determined to be a perfect match, so in June of 2007, the family traveled to Houston, Texas, and the transplant was successfully performed; and

WHEREAS, although Coleson had to remain in isolation for one full year after the transplant, the family witnessed many miracles as his body began to recover and he has now been determined to be completely recovered from Diamond-Blackfan Anemia, and is a healthy, clever, active and intelligent ten year old boy who enjoys reading, playing basketball, and swimming on the local swim team; and

WHEREAS, though he is still a young man, with a bright and happy future stretching before him, Coleson Andrew Shaw is a testament to courage, hope, and strength, who will forever be grateful for the love, dedication, and prayers from his family, especially his brother, Cade, who never gave up hope that he could have a wonderful and happy life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Coleson Andrew Shaw for his strength and bravery throughout his years of long struggle with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia and does hereby extend best wishes for a continued happy, healthy, and active life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coleson Andrew Shaw.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES