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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY JOHNSON

A Resolution recognizing and honoring the work of Easter Seals and its efforts to help persons with disabilities.

WHEREAS, in 1919, Edgar Allen founded what became known as the National Society for Crippled Children, and in 1934 the organization launched its first Easter "seals" campaign to raise money for its services. In 1967 the organization formally adopted the name "Easter Seals"; and

WHEREAS, today, 54 million Americans live with a disability, and Easter Seals has been helping those individuals and their families live better lives for more than 80 years; and

WHEREAS, Easter Seals Iowa helps children and adults with disabilities across Iowa by providing child care, medical equipment loans, job training and employment services, and camping, recreation, and respite care; and

WHEREAS, Easter Seals Iowa runs a program called Rural Solutions, a program for farmers who are disabled and want to remain farming their land; and

WHEREAS, the work of Easter Seals Iowa and Rural Solutions can be seen in the success story of Ryan Odens of Little Rock, Iowa, who operates his family farm even though he is a quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odens was injured in a rollover accident in the summer of 2000, but after intensive therapy he returned to his farm in less than one year,

1 and through the assistance of Easter Seals Rural
2 Solutions and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services,
3 Mr. Odens' tractors and combines were retrofitted with
4 platform lifts to raise him up to the cab, his home
5 was remodeled so that he can continue to live
6 independently, and he now uses a specially designed,
7 all-terrain vehicle to move around the farm, check
8 crops, and inspect livestock; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Odens now serves as the Easter Seals
10 National Adult Ambassador for the United States; NOW
11 THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate, with
13 great respect, honors Easter Seals for more than eight
14 decades of service to the disabled; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate thanks Ryan
16 Odens for sharing his story of hope and recovery with
17 Iowa and the nation.

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