

State of Arizona



Senate Proclamation

Proclaiming October as Dwarfism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 648 persons with dwarfism residing in the State of Arizona, averaging one per every 10,000 births, over 30,000 people in the United States, and over 650,000 in the world; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200 distinct types of dwarfism or skeletal dysplasia; the most common type of dwarfism, achondroplasia, restricts the growth of the arms and legs; the typical height range for persons with dwarfism is 2 feet 8 inches to 4 feet 5 inches; and

WHEREAS, over eighty percent of persons with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings; and

WHEREAS, the medical prognosis for people with dwarfism varies from condition to condition, and with the severity of that condition in each individual; the majority of persons with dwarfism enjoy normal life spans and reasonably good health; Others will require surgeries or other medical interventions to address complications and maximize mobility; and

WHEREAS, the term "midget" is antiquated and is considered offensive to most people with dwarfism; and

WHEREAS, the preferred terminology for someone with dwarfism is "person of short stature," "having dwarfism," or "little person"; and

WHEREAS, persons with dwarfism are protected under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, persons with dwarfism are able to function as well in society as average-height people and are perfectly capable of playing sports, driving cars, traveling, and having fulfilling careers and families – all with simple and reasonable accommodations; and

WHEREAS, persons with dwarfism can turn to support organizations such as the Little People of America (LPA), the nation's oldest and largest organization for persons with dwarfism, for guidance on parenting, adoption, education, medical consultation, physical fitness, peer support, community outreach, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, LPA was founded by the late actor Billy Barty, who during his over 70-year career appeared in more than 100 films and television shows; and

WHEREAS, persons with dwarfism contribute to the strength of the economy in Arizona by being productive members of the workforce, representing all careers and professions; and

WHEREAS, LPA has declared October as National Dwarfism Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona State Senate designates October as Dwarfism Awareness Month in Arizona to increase public knowledge about persons with dwarfism.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Biggs", written over a horizontal line.

ANDY BIGGS
President of the Senate

