Highlighted sections need to be updated

January 2019

Dear Senator/Representative:

As you start the 116th Congress, I wanted to offer Easterseals as a resource to you and your staff on issues related to disability, health care, caregiving and aging, early childhood development and education, employment, transportation, and veterans.

Easterseals is a national network of more than 70 leading nonprofit organizations who provide essential services to children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and older adults to help them achieve milestones, live independently, and fully participate in their communities. In [name of state], Easterseals [name of affiliate] provides [list services (i.e.) child care, medical rehabilitation, mental health services, assistive technology, employment services, and respite services] to individuals and families in our state.

Nationally, Easterseals was founded on April 22, 1919. We are celebrating our 100th anniversary throughout 2019, starting with recognition at the Tournament of Roses Parade earlier this year (January 1st) and continuing the rest of the year with celebrations and local events across the country. **We hope you can support a congressional resolution in 2019 to recognize Easterseals on our 100 years of service and impact on children and adults with disabilities, older adults, and veterans**. Attached is a copy of the resolution.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at any time. In addition, your staff can reach out to Maynard Friesz at the Easterseals Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. at 202-403-8345 or mfriesz@easterseals.com if they have questions related to the resolution. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

XXXX

DRAFT

**116TH CONGRESS**

**RES. X**

*Recognizing the 100th anniversary of Easterseals, a leading advocate and service provider for children and adults with disabilities, veterans, older adults, caregivers, and their families.*

Whereas, on April 22, 1919, an organization now known as Easterseals was formed to highlight and address the health care and service needs of children with disabilities;

Whereas, in 1945, Easterseals expanded its children’s-focused mission by opening its programs and services to include adults to meet the emerging and increasing needs of returning World War II veterans and other adults with disabilities;

Whereas, since its inception, Easterseals has strongly advocated for essential services and supports for individuals with disabilities and diverse needs, including by authoring a 1931 “Bill of Rights” for children with disabilities that led to government-funded disability services and by increasing public awareness and support through its successful “seals” and other national campaigns;

Whereas, Easterseals has grown from its humble Elyria, Ohio beginnings to become a network of leading nonprofit organizations in states across the country who deliver high-quality, local services and supports to help children and adults with disabilities, veterans, older adults, caregivers, and their families achieve milestones, live independently, and fully participate in their communities;

Whereas, Easterseals is a strong partner with local, state, and federal government, corporations, foundations, and other sectors to provide or connect individuals and families to early childhood education and intervention services, employment assistance and placement, transportation solutions, mental health services, respite, camping and recreation, and caregiving and aging supports; and

Whereas, Easterseals continues the mission and commitment to service envisioned by its founder, Edgar Allen, a parent, businessman, and Rotarian who concluded that “Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what we give”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Congress

1. Commemorates April 22, 2019, as the 100th anniversary of Easterseals; and
2. Recognizes Easterseals for its impact over the past 100 years in the lives of millions of Americans and for its commitment to expanding possibilities for children and adults with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and others to ensure that everyone of us can live, learn, work, and play in our communities.