IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of Oc­
tober, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and ninth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5252 of October 9, 1984

National Down's Syndrome Month, 1984

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

In the past decade, the United States has entered a new era of hope for its
developmentally disabled citizens. This new age of enlightened understand­
ing recognizes that developmentally disabled persons have a great potential
for achieving and overcoming handicaps. Down's syndrome, a condition
once thought to be without hope of positive change, is one of the best sym­
 bols of this changing attitude.

Progress is evident on several fronts. Research has uncovered the genetic
basis for the condition and points the way to its ultimate prevention. Ad­
vances in medical treatment can minimize defects associated with the con­
dition and have extended the life-span of those who have it. School doors
have been unlocked to Down's syndrome children, and special education
classes within mainstream school programs have been developed. Voc­
tional training in preparation for gainful employment and independent
living has become available.

These advances have not occurred by chance. They are the result of the
collective effort of concerned physicians, scientific investigators, teachers
and other professionals, parent groups such as the National Down's Syn­
drome Congress, and government. But the task remains unfinished. Public
awareness and acceptance of the capabilities of persons who have Down's
syndrome can greatly facilitate their being welcomed in all communities.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 254, has designated October 1984
as "National Down's Syndrome Month" and has authorized and requested
the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States
of America, do hereby proclaim October 1984 as National Down's Syn­
drome Month, and I urge all Americans to join me in encouraging renewed
efforts on behalf of the health and well-being of individuals with Down's
syndrome. I invite all concerned citizens, agencies, and organizations to
unite during October in support of appropriate observances and activities
that will assist individuals with Down's syndrome and their families to a
fuller and more rewarding life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of
October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of
the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and
ninth.

RONALD REAGAN