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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 338
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 1, 2019)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Lewis)

Designating July, in 2019 and in each succeeding year, as Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month in Virginia.

WHEREAS, orofacial clefts are the most frequently occurring birth defects in the United States, affecting about 1 in 700 infants per year; and

WHEREAS, infants born with clefts and other craniofacial conditions usually require surgery as well as special feeding support, dental and orthodontic care, and speech therapy as they grow; and

WHEREAS, these complex services need to be provided in a synchronized manner over a period of years and are best provided by interdisciplinary cleft and craniofacial teams; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association Family Services serve populations affected by craniofacial differences in order to help these infants get a healthy start to life by providing their families with comprehensive information, counseling support, and connections to these interdisciplinary teams; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize the efforts of organizations and families working to ensure a better life for those affected by cleft lip or cleft palate or other craniofacial conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate July, in 2019 and in each succeeding year, as Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.