

## RESOLUTION 8/2/2016 A

Resolution calling on the Town of Hancock, Residents and Business Owners to adopt the "Think Differently" Initiative to assist individuals with special needs and their families.

WHEREAS, the "Think Differently" initiative is about promoting awareness and acceptance of all people, and advocating for the inclusion of all individuals living with special needs; and

WHEREAS, our state and communities are stronger because of our diversity and differences; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 55 million people, or approximately 19% of Americans, have a type of disability or special need; and

WHEREAS, for some people with special needs, the very things that make them unique can also keep them on the sidelines, separate from those who might not understand their differences or uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, it is important to promote and provide guidance to those with special needs on how to access publically supported services available to them in the community; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage and educate the community and businesses on ways they can make facilities and services more accessible and on how to train staff to welcome and support special needs customers and co-workers; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this initiative is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families; and

WHEREAS, adopting the "Think Differently" initiative is an important statement that our Town Officials, business owners and residents can make to show their support for the differently-abled children and adults with special needs, and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hancock encourages our residents and business owners to adopt the "Think Differently" initiative so that all are better prepared to communicate with, provide for, and support those living with special needs.

The Resolution having received at least a two-thirds vote of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Hancock was declared by the Chairman to be duly adopted by the following votes:

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Rowe    | Aye |
| Gardner | Aye |
| Vetrone | Aye |
| Vernold | Aye |
| O'Brien | Aye |