**Request for October to become National Dwarfism Awareness Month**

Whereas, the Little People of America, Inc. (LPA), a non-profit organization, is the nation’s oldest and largest organization for people with dwarfism, is celebrating its 61th anniversary year in 2018;

Whereas, LPA was founded by the late actor Billy Barty, who during his 70+ year career appeared in more than 100 films and television shows, and was a long time resident of Burbank, California;

Whereas, LPA is the only dwarfism support organization that includes all 200+ forms of dwarfism and welcomes family members and people with dwarfism alike;

Whereas, the need and support that LPA provides is demonstrated by the fact that what began with 20 people in Reno, Nevada in 1957 has grown to a membership of more than 8000 in 2018;

Whereas, there are an estimated 3500 people with dwarfism in the state of California (one per 10,000 births), 30,000 people in the United States, and 651,700 in the world;

Whereas, LPA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism throughout their lives while celebrating with great pride Little People’s contribution to social diversity;

Whereas, people with dwarfism contribute to the strength of the economy of California by being productive members of the workforce covering all fields and professions;

Whereas, LPA provides to its members support on issues including; parenting, adoption assistance, educational scholarships, medical knowledge and access to specialists in dwarfism, peer support, community outreach and advocacy;

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring*, that the Legislature here declares the month of October of 2018 as Dwarfism Awareness Month, in order to raise public awareness about dwarfism and the contributions of Little People of America for 61 years of service to its members and the community.