

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 355 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, REED, BEAR, BEYER, BOYD, BRENNAN,
BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CUTLER,
DALEY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK,
FRANKEL, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY,
HESS, MAJOR, MENSCH, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL,
PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN, READSHAW,
REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SAYLOR, SEIP, SWANGER, TRUE,
VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD AND CREIGHTON, JUNE 16, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE
16, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2009 as "*MECP2* Duplication
2 Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome is a neurological
4 disorder that occurs almost exclusively in boys; and

5 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome is usually caused by
6 duplication of DNA on the Xq28 region of the chromosome; and

7 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome was not formally
8 recognized until 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome is most commonly
10 inherited in an X-linked manner, meaning that affected males
11 have, most commonly, inherited the *MECP2* duplication from the
12 carrier mother, however, spontaneous duplications have been
13 reported, but, to date, no cases of a father's transmitting the
14 duplication have been reported; and

1 WHEREAS, *MECP2* is the gene known to cause the neurological
2 problems in *MECP2* duplication syndrome; and

3 WHEREAS, While duplication of *MECP2* causes many problems,
4 some boys have large duplications that include many other genes,
5 and the full extent of phenotypes due to duplication of other
6 genes is not completely understood at this time; and

7 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome is characterized by
8 hypotonia, developmental delay, mental retardation, limited or
9 absent speech, constipation, reflux, ataxia, progressive
10 spasticity, stereotyped movements of hands, teeth grinding,
11 recurrent respiratory infections in 80%, epilepsy in 50% and
12 developmental regression occurring in some boys; and

13 WHEREAS, Recent studies have shown a link between *MECP2*
14 duplication syndrome and autism, and most boys with this
15 syndrome do have distinct features of autism; and

16 WHEREAS, Patients with *MECP2* duplication syndrome have
17 multiple neurological deficits, but, thankfully, their brains
18 are not static and are highly responsive to proper stimulation
19 such as schooling, exercise, music, age-appropriate social
20 interactions and related activities; and

21 WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome research is currently
22 taking place with efforts to reduce symptoms in mice, in hope
23 that there will be effective treatments for humans with this
24 disorder soon; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 month of July 2009 as "*MECP2* Duplication Syndrome Awareness
27 Month" in Pennsylvania.