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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 710 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, REED, ADOLPH, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYD, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CIVERA, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, GABLER, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MAJOR, MARSICO, MELIO, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TRUE, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 24, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 24, 2010

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of July 2010 as "*MECP2* Duplication Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, *MECP2* duplication syndrome is most commonly inherited in an X-linked manner, meaning that affected males have, most commonly, inherited the *MECP2* duplication from the carrier mother, however, spontaneous duplications have been reported, but, to date, no cases of a father transmitting the

duplication have been reported; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of July 2010 as "*MECP2* Duplication Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.