
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 21 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,
V. BROWN, BULLOCK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON, D. COSTA,
DAVIDSON, DEASY, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH, FREEMAN, GABLER,
GILLEN, GOODMAN, GROVE, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, KINSEY,
KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MATZIE, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO,
NEILSON, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, SAMUELSON,
SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, TOEPEL, TOOHIL, WARD,
WATSON AND WHEELAND, MARCH 13, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 21, 2017, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in
4 approximately one in every 700 births; and

5 WHEREAS, The most common form of Down syndrome, trisomy 21,
6 is due to an error in cell division, just prior to or during
7 conception, with the 21st chromosome dividing into three copies
8 instead of two, resulting in an individual being born with 47
9 instead of 46 chromosomes in each cell; and

10 WHEREAS, There are more than 400,000 people of various
11 ethnic, racial, religious and socioeconomic groups with Down
12 syndrome living in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, While people with Down syndrome are at a higher risk
14 for various conditions, including congenital heart defects,

1 respiratory problems and thyroid issues, advances in treatments
2 enable them to lead healthy lives; and

3 WHEREAS, Thanks to these medical treatments and continuing
4 research, life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has
5 increased from 25 years of age in 1983 to 60 years of age today;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and
8 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable
9 people with Down syndrome to confront and conquer cognitive
10 delays; and

11 WHEREAS, With these programs and the support of their
12 families and communities, people with Down syndrome are able to
13 attend school, with many going on to college, obtain full-time
14 employment and enter into marriage; and

15 WHEREAS, Noting the significance of the triplication of the
16 21st chromosome, Down Syndrome International has chosen the 21st
17 day of the third month of the year, or March 21, 2017, as "World
18 Down Syndrome Day" in Pennsylvania in order to raise public
19 awareness of Down syndrome and to recognize the dignity, rights
20 and well-being of people with this condition; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
22 21, 2017, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in Pennsylvania,
23 acknowledging the positive contributions that people with Down
24 syndrome and their families make to our communities in
25 Pennsylvania, the United States and across the globe.