
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 561 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, BERNSTINE, BAKER, NEILSON, MACKENZIE,
BOBACK, HENNESSEY, HAHN, BURNS, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, TAYLOR,
SCHLOSSBERG, KAUFFMAN, WARD, CAUSER, VAZQUEZ, TOOHL,
PASHINSKI, DUSH, SONNEY, PICKETT, MARSICO, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
LONGIETTI, RYAN, CALTAGIRONE, O'NEILL, CHARLTON, MILLARD,
SAMUELSON, READSHAW, EVERETT, D. COSTA, SCHWEYER, ROZZI,
GROVE AND CONKLIN, OCTOBER 12, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 12, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2017 as "Down Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in
4 approximately 1 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 in three instead
8 of two, resulting in a person's being born with 47 instead of 46
9 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, such as congenital heart defects,
15 respiratory problems and thyroid issues, advances in treatments

1 enable them to lead healthy lives; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and
7 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable
8 people with Down syndrome to adapt and thrive; and

9 WHEREAS, With such programs and the support of their families
10 and communities, people with Down syndrome attend school,
11 participate in postsecondary opportunities, with many going on
12 to college, obtain full-time employment, enter into marriage and
13 fully participate in their communities; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
15 month of October 2017 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" in
16 Pennsylvania, recognizing the positive contributions that people
17 with Down syndrome and their families make to our communities in
18 the nation and in this Commonwealth.