

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 731 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BRADFORD, BAKER, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE, CONKLIN,
D. COSTA, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, FREEMAN, GILLEN, HEFFLEY,
HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, MARSICO, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT,
NEILSON, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHWEYER, SONNEY AND TOOHIL,
MARCH 9, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 9, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 6, 2018, as "Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hypoplastic left heart syndrome is a congenital
4 heart defect that occurs during fetal development and affects
5 the blood flow through the heart; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 1 in 4,344 babies born in the United
7 States each year is diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart
8 syndrome; and

9 WHEREAS, The syndrome can affect a number of structures on
10 the left side of the heart, including a left ventricle that is
11 underdeveloped, a mitral valve that is not formed or is very
12 small, an aortic valve that is not formed or is very small or
13 the ascending portion of the aorta may be underdeveloped; and

14 WHEREAS, In healthy children, the left side of the heart
15 pumps oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the body and the right
16 side of the heart pumps oxygen-poor blood from the heart to the

1 lungs; and

2 WHEREAS, When the heart is not able to pump oxygen-rich blood
3 to the body efficiently, children may have a pounding heart
4 rate, weak pulse, ashen or bluish skin tone or breathing
5 problems; and

6 WHEREAS, Some children may become tired while feeding or
7 eating and may not consume enough to gain weight; and

8 WHEREAS, Though there is no cure for hypoplastic left heart
9 syndrome and children may require lifesaving medication for the
10 duration of their lives, there is a series of three surgeries
11 that have saved countless lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Some children may need a heart transplant to survive
13 the syndrome and will need to take antirejection medication for
14 life; and

15 WHEREAS, Before the 1980s, the syndrome had a mortality rate
16 of 95% within the first month of life; and

17 WHEREAS, Thanks to medical advancements, the syndrome has a
18 58% to 72% survival rate at five years of age; and

19 WHEREAS, Michael Richard Winchester, born March 26, 2014,
20 became the spirited poster child and symbolic hallmark for the
21 creation of Brave Little Hearts which raises awareness and
22 supportive resources for children with congenital heart disease;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2017, Michael Richard Winchester died
25 from the effects of hypoplastic left heart syndrome just two
26 weeks before his third birthday; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
28 6, 2018, as "Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome Awareness Day" in
29 Pennsylvania.