A RESOLUTION

Urging the immediate removal or resignation of Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine.

WHEREAS, Dr. Levine was named as the Acting Secretary of Health by Governor Tom Wolf in July 2017 and confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of Health in March 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health is responsible under The Disease Prevention and Control Act of 1955 to carry out appropriate control measures to limit the spread of disease in order to protect all Pennsylvanians; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health has led the charge during the COVID-19 pandemic in providing guidance to the departments and agencies that oversee this Commonwealth's most vulnerable populations, especially seniors, older adults and individuals with compromised immune systems; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health, under Secretary Levine, halted routine inspections, including life safety and emergency preparedness elements, of long-term care facilities, including
nursing homes, hospice care, home health care and intermediate care, on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health, under Secretary Levine, instituted guidance for nursing facilities to admit and readmit patients who tested positive for COVID-19 on March 18, 2020, putting the patients and staff of nursing facilities at greater risk; and

WHEREAS, To date, 2,611 of 3,806, or 68.6%, of the COVID-19-related deaths in this Commonwealth have occurred in long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, On March 29, 2020, it was widely reported that Secretary Levine's mother was a resident in one of this Commonwealth's personal care homes; and

WHEREAS, On May 11, 2020, Secretary Levine confirmed during a press conference that she moved her mother out of the personal care home and into a hotel; and

WHEREAS, Despite moving her own mother out of the personal care home, Secretary Levine did not make the residents of this Commonwealth immediately aware of her actions nor the underlying reasons, therefore withholding information and transparency which could have benefited the citizens of this Commonwealth and their loved ones, and potentially could have saved lives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the immediate removal or resignation of the Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine.