A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2018 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

3 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome causes many problems and is typically characterized by hypotonia, developmental delay, intellectual disability, limited or absent speech, constipation, reflux, ataxia, progressive spasticity, stereotyped movements of hands, teeth grinding, recurrent respiratory infections, epilepsy and developmental regression in boys; and

4 WHEREAS, 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

5 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 are highly responsive to proper stimulation such as schooling, exercise, music, age-appropriate social interactions and related activities; 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, with affected males most commonly inheriting the MECP2 duplication from the carrier mother, but spontaneous duplications have been reported; and

WHEREAS, To date, no cases of a father transmitting the duplication have been reported; and

WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome research, which has shown that symptoms of the disorder can be reversed in mice using a small antisense oligonucleotide, gives hope for the future development of effective treatments for humans with this disorder; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of July 2018 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.