A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of October 2020 as "LGBT History Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" was established in 1994 by Rodney Wilson to celebrate and teach gay and lesbian history;

and

WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" has been endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of "LGBT History Month" is to recognize influential figures that have played a key role in progressing LGBTQ rights and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a rich history of LGBTQ accomplishments as well as influential figures; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, in the City of Philadelphia, one of the first organized LGBTQ protests in United States history helped
to ignite the modern LGBTQ equality movement; and

WHEREAS, Among those influential figures is Cheryl Dunye, a
lesbian filmmaker, who grew up in Philadelphia and created films
whose themes explored the intersection of race, sexuality and
personal identity; and

WHEREAS, Billy Strayhorn, an openly gay black man, wrote
arrangements for musicals that challenged racist representations
of people of color and was frequently active in the advancement
of civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Governor Milton Shapp signed an executive order in
1975 that ended discrimination of employees in State government
based on sexual orientation, making Pennsylvania the first State
in the United States to authorize such a change; and

WHEREAS, Kiyoshi Kuromiya founded the Critical Path AIDS
Project, which was a collection of local organizations that
provided helpful resources and services to people with HIV; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
in conjunction with the LGBT Center of Central PA History
Project, is performing research and recording prominent
Pennsylvania LGBTQ historical sites, events and figures to
better teach individuals about Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history should be recognized
and celebrated; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
month of October 2020 as "LGBT History Month" in Pennsylvania.