A RESOLUTION

Recognizing September 30, 2020, as "NICU Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Every year, more than 500,000 newborn babies are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit, also known as the NICU; and

WHEREAS, The NICU is for babies who need intensive medical care for complications related to preterm delivery, low birth weight and health conditions that require special care; and

WHEREAS, NICUs have the advanced technology and trained health care professionals needed to care for the smallest and most fragile patients; and

WHEREAS, These highly specialized units treat newborns for a variety of complications, including birth anomalies, brain injury, cardiac conditions, infection, jaundice, neonatal abstinence syndrome and respiratory distress; and

WHEREAS, NICU babies often experience complications that
persist beyond their stay in the hospital and may require assistance with health and special needs throughout their lifetimes; and WHEREAS, Advances in neonatal medicine have allowed more infants to benefit from the specialized care offered by NICUs; and WHEREAS, Funding for research into the causes of a NICU stay and the holistic care of NICU families continues to be vital; and WHEREAS, Many families of NICU babies struggle to find the education, resources and support they need; and WHEREAS, "NICU Awareness Day" provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected by the NICU to share their stories, engage with the larger NICU community and honor the dedicated health professionals who continue to advance the important work of these units; therefore be it RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize September 30, 2020, as "NICU Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.