A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the essential work performed by individuals with disabilities during the 2020 pandemic and thanking them for their continued efforts through the remainder of the pandemic as they continue their work into the future.

WHEREAS, The current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the need for essential services to continue even in areas where many businesses' physical locations and state government buildings remain closed; and

WHEREAS, Essential services include:

(1) Performing daily janitorial and total facility management services to Commonwealth facilities throughout Pennsylvania.

(2) Maintaining offices and providing other services in government buildings where vital work is being performed, including State Police Barracks, rest areas, welcome centers, Department of Transportation facilities, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency facilities, and

Emergency Management Agency facilities, Department of Health

...
facilities, Department of Human Services facilities, Department of Labor and Industry facilities and Photo License Centers throughout the Commonwealth.

(3) Maintaining new and existing call center and help desk support operations for the Department of Human Services, Pennsylvania State Police, Department of Corrections, Board of Probation and Parole, Department of Banking and Securities, Department of Revenue and Department of Labor and Industry.

(4) Providing deep cleaning and sanitization services in Commonwealth offices.

(5) Producing and providing urgently needed personal protective equipment and disinfecting and sanitization products.

(6) Responding to dynamically changing acquisition methods to meet the needs of the Commonwealth;

and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has recognized the importance of these jobs in passing laws that support the hiring of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, These essential services are performed in large part by essential workers with disabilities under contracts under section 520 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, which is intended to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Many of these essential workers work through disability service providers that provide training, job coaches, transportation or any other needed supports to help these essential workers in performing this work; and

WHEREAS, This essential workforce has continued to perform
regular duties and meet the ever-changing needs of the Commonwealth throughout the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, This essential workforce is vital to the economy of this Commonwealth and to the personal economies and well-being of the remainder of the essential workforce; and

WHEREAS, These essential workers with disabilities will remain an essential part of our workforce long after the COVID-19 pandemic has ended; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the essential work performed by individuals with disabilities during the 2020 pandemic and thank them for their continued efforts through the remainder of the pandemic as they continue their work into the future.