A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and Congress of the United States to continue their commendable efforts to reduce Federal regulatory burdens.

4 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States requires a proper separation of powers between the three branches of government, with lawmaking that is accountable to the people; and

8 WHEREAS, Rulemakings by Federal agencies have overtaken Congressional action as the primary vehicle for setting national policy affecting State and local governments, business and families; and

12 WHEREAS, At the end of 2016, the Federal Register, the official depository of record of final and proposed rulemakings, totaled 95,894 pages, nearly 20% more pages than at the end of 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, The cumulative number of Federal regulatory rulemakings with estimated costs greater than $1 billion
increased dramatically over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Research conducted by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University found that economic growth in the United States has, on average, been slowed by 0.8% per year since 1980, owing to the cumulative effects of Federal regulation; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of Pennsylvania establishes the General Assembly as the lawmaking branch of government of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Research conducted by the Mercatus Center indicates that Pennsylvanians are subject to more than 153,000 regulatory restrictions; and

WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, residents and businesses have identified Federal and State regulatory burdens as a hindrance to business development and the exercise of personal freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Businesses have incorporated part of the cost of compliance with Federal and State regulations into the price of their products and services, thereby raising costs for families and consumers; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania House of Representatives State Government Committee held hearings in 2017 to explore Pennsylvania's regulatory environment in the context of burdens, abuses, legislative oversight and potential solutions; and

WHEREAS, The State Government Committee found that regulatory restrictions create a hurdle that businesses of all shapes and sizes must jump over in order to create jobs in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The State Government Committee also found that the Regulatory Review Act does not currently give the General Assembly the authority to stop the promulgation of a regulation.
without the Governor's approval; and

WHEREAS, The hearings also revealed that the inconsistent interpretation of regulations across the regions of this Commonwealth is harmful to industries operating in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The State Government Committee is recommending legislative reforms and advocating for best practices that committees can use to enhance their oversight role in regard to regulations; and

WHEREAS, The recommended reforms are aimed at improving the regulatory culture to ensure that the application of existing laws and regulations is collaborative and not punitive, to systematically review existing regulations and to stop faulty regulations before implementation; and

WHEREAS, Advocates of reform believe that a collaborative approach to regulatory implementation and enforcement would best ensure compliance and protection of public health and safety, while removing barriers to job creation; and

WHEREAS, There is support among members of the House of Representatives for regulatory reforms at the Federal and State levels; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Administrative Procedure Act, the governing legislation guiding the Federal rulemaking process, has not been updated in 70 years; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has made a strong commitment to regulatory reform by signing an executive order requiring that two regulations be cut for each new regulation proposed; and

WHEREAS, The President and Congress of the United States have also utilized the Congressional Review Act to eliminate more
than 12 burdensome Federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Congress has demonstrated an interest in improving its regulatory oversight tools and processes in recent months and has considered a number of regulatory reform initiatives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of the United States to continue their commendable efforts to reduce regulatory burdens and thereby spur job creation and economic growth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recommend that Congress reaffirm its role as the primary policymaking branch of the Federal Government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support efforts to restore transparency and accountability to the Federal rulemaking process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.