A RESOLUTION

Designating February 7 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" and further designating February 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" is an annual recognition effort to help educate the public about congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the most common congenital disability, annually affecting 1 in every 104 newborns in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Designating "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" in this Commonwealth promotes greater public awareness about congenital heart defects and encourages proper screenings to detect such defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are a leading cause of birth-defect-related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects cause twice as many fatalities as childhood cancer; and
WHEREAS, Newborn screening for congenital heart defects involves a simple, noninvasive test called pulse oximetry; and
WHEREAS, Pulse oximetry screening is the most effective way to detect critical congenital heart defects; and
WHEREAS, Many newborns with a critical heart defect need surgery and related procedures during their first year of life to repair and sustain their heart; and
WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for awareness and funding to screen for and correct congenital heart defects; and
WHEREAS, Emersyn Grace was born on March 29, 2018, with a heart defect that was detected before her birth and she battled through multiple surgeries in her short life; and
WHEREAS, Though Emersyn tragically passed away in November 2018 due to complications from her heart condition, Pennsylvanians endure with humility to honor her memory by spreading awareness for congenital heart defects and the tests that can detect them; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 7 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week," and further designate February 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's Day" in Pennsylvania.