A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 20 through 26, 2020, as "National Adult and Family Literacy Week" in Pennsylvania and encouraging all citizens of this Commonwealth to participate in activities that support and strengthen family bonds.

WHEREAS, Language, numeracy, health, finance and digital literacy are increasingly essential for individual and collective economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Literacy in these domains is the foundation for additional skill building required to build a thriving workforce; and

WHEREAS, A vibrant Pennsylvania economy that is well-positioned in the global economy depends on having a literate, skilled population; and

WHEREAS, The economic well-being of future generations of Pennsylvanians depend on the ability of parents and caregivers to impart basic literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, The high school credential is essential to attain additional credentials that lead to family-sustaining careers; and
WHEREAS, The potential of 21% of adults in this Commonwealth who need basic skills education can be unlocked with adult and family literacy education; and
WHEREAS, Without basic skills, these adults remain trapped in low-wage jobs and struggle to support their families; and
WHEREAS, The COVID-19 recession has hit low-wage workers the hardest, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs across this Commonwealth with the highest job losses among women, African Americans and individuals with a high school diploma or less; and
WHEREAS, An equitable economic recovery requires investing in building the skills of this Commonwealth's adults who are striving to build their families and futures in communities in this Commonwealth; and
WHEREAS, Each year, "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week" highlights the need for our nation to support efforts to ensure that each individual has the necessary literacy skills to succeed at home, at work and in society; and
WHEREAS, The Senate supports the educators and the students enrolled in literacy programs throughout this Commonwealth; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 20 through 26, 2020, as "National Adult and Family Literacy Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all citizens of this Commonwealth to participate in activities that support and strengthen family bonds.