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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 937 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, REED, COHEN, KIRKLAND, BAKER,  
LONGIETTI, TOOHL, DUSH, SONNEY, FEE, D. COSTA, VEREB,  
TOEPEL, HENNESSEY, WARD, CAUSER, ELLIS, MILLARD, HARHART,  
CUTLER, GIBBONS, ROSS, O'NEILL, MENTZER, NEILSON, A. HARRIS,  
READSHAW, PAYNE, GOODMAN, WHEELAND, GINGRICH, KINSEY,  
DONATUCCI, MARSICO, MAJOR, BRADFORD, SAYLOR, ZIMMERMAN,  
EVERETT, GILLEN, MILNE AND PHILLIPS-HILL, JUNE 20, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 20, 2016

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2016 as "MECP2 Duplication  
2 Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is usually caused by  
4 duplication of DNA on the Xq28 region of the chromosomes; and

5 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is characterized by  
6 hypotonia, developmental delay, intellectual disability, limited  
7 or absent speech, constipation, reflux, ataxia, progressive  
8 spasticity, stereotyped movements of hands, teeth grinding,  
9 recurrent respiratory infections, epilepsy and developmental  
10 regression occurring in some boys; and

11 WHEREAS, While duplication of MECP2 causes many problems,  
12 some boys have large duplications that include many other genes,  
13 and the full extent of phenotypes due to duplication of other  
14 genes is not completely understood at this time; and

15 WHEREAS, Recent studies have shown a link between MECP2

1 duplication syndrome and autism, and most boys with this  
2 syndrome do have distinct features of autism; and

3 WHEREAS, Patients with MECP2 duplication syndrome have  
4 multiple neurological deficits, but, thankfully, their brains  
5 are not static and are highly responsive to proper stimulation,  
6 such as schooling, exercise, music, age-appropriate social  
7 interactions and related activities; and

8 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome was not formally  
9 recognized until 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is most commonly  
11 inherited in an X-linked manner, meaning that affected males  
12 have, most commonly, inherited the MECP2 duplication from the  
13 carrier mother, however, spontaneous duplications have been  
14 reported; and

15 WHEREAS, To date, no cases of a father transmitting the  
16 duplication have been reported; and

17 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome research, which has shown  
18 that symptoms of the disorder can be reversed in mice using a  
19 small antisense oligonucleotide, gives hope that there soon will  
20 be effective treatments for humans with this disorder; therefore  
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
23 month of July 2016 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness  
24 Month" in Pennsylvania.