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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 174 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, SCARNATI, EICHELBERGER, MENSCH, GORDNER,  
WARD, RESCHENTHALER, RAFFERTY, HUTCHINSON, LANGERHOLC,  
VULAKOVICH, BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, BLAKE, DiSANTO, YUDICHAK AND  
AUMENT, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the practice of selectively aborting fetuses with  
2 Down syndrome.

3 WHEREAS, Recent reports have characterized Iceland's near  
4 eradication of Down syndrome as laudable despite the eradication  
5 being the result of abortion following prenatal diagnosis of  
6 Down syndrome; and

7 WHEREAS, Purposefully encouraging abortion and using other  
8 sterilization techniques to rid society of a class of  
9 individuals are heinous, immoral actions, essentially practicing  
10 eugenics; and

11 WHEREAS, Eugenics is a science that deals with the  
12 improvement of hereditary qualities of a race or breed by  
13 controlling human mating and reproduction; and

14 WHEREAS, Historically, the vile tactics of eugenics have been  
15 practiced worldwide and widely condemned after their expanded  
16 use in Nazi Germany; and

17 WHEREAS, The notion that an individual with Down syndrome is

1 incapable of leading a full life is grossly flawed; and

2 WHEREAS, After receiving prenatal test results, parents  
3 should not be pressured into aborting their children; and

4 WHEREAS, Resources should be devoted to improving the lives  
5 of those with Down syndrome, developing and delivering new and  
6 effective educational, behavioral and drug treatments for Down  
7 syndrome and conducting related research; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate condemn the practice of selectively  
9 aborting fetuses with Down syndrome; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That individuals with Down syndrome be respected  
11 and admired for the joy and contributions they bring to society.