
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 917 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, EMRICK, JONES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI,
MENTZER, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, READSHAW, ROZZI, RYAN,
SAYLOR, SONNEY, TOMLINSON AND ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2020 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 causes many problems and
6 is typically characterized by hypotonia, developmental delay,
7 intellectual disability, limited or absent speech, constipation,
8 reflux, ataxia, progressive spasticity, stereotyped movements of
9 hands, teeth grinding, recurrent respiratory infections,
10 epilepsy and developmental regression in boys; and

11 WHEREAS, Some boys have large duplications which include many
12 other genes, and the full extent of phenotypes due to
13 duplication of other genes is not completely understood at this
14 time; and

15 WHEREAS, Recent studies have shown a link between MECP2
16 duplication syndrome and autism, and most boys with this
17 syndrome do have distinct features of autism; and

1 WHEREAS, Patients with MECP2 duplication syndrome are highly
2 responsive to proper stimulation such as schooling, exercise,
3 music, age-appropriate social interactions and related
4 activities; and

5 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome was not formally
6 recognized until 2005; and

7 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is most commonly
8 inherited in an X-linked manner, with affected males most
9 commonly inheriting the MECP2 duplication from the carrier
10 mother, but spontaneous duplications have been reported; and

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

13 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome research, which has shown
14 that symptoms of the disorder can be reversed in mice using a
15 small antisense oligonucleotide, gives hope for the future
16 development of effective treatments for humans with this
17 disorder; and

18 WHEREAS, Clinical readiness studies are ongoing to identify
19 ways to monitor response to therapy and ensure safety as a
20 preparation for future clinical trials; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of July 2020 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness
23 Month" in Pennsylvania.