

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2014 as "Smith-Magenis Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Smith-Magenis syndrome (SMS) is a chromosomal
4 disorder characterized by a recognizable pattern of physical,
5 behavioral and developmental features; and

6 WHEREAS, Most individuals with SMS are born with a small
7 deletion of one member of their 17th pair of chromosomes; and

8 WHEREAS, It is the lack of this specific section, known as
9 17p11.2, which causes a child to develop the features of SMS;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The most common features of SMS include a
12 characteristic, yet subtle, facial appearance, infant feeding
13 problems, low muscle tone, developmental delays, variable levels
14 of intellectual disability, early speech delays, middle ear
15 problems, skeletal anomalies and decreased sensitivity to pain;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The syndrome also includes a distinct pattern of

1 neurobehavioral features characterized by chronic sleep
2 disturbances, hyperactivity, sudden mood changes and self-
3 injurious behaviors; and

4 WHEREAS, It is estimated that SMS occurs in 1 out of 25,000
5 births in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, SMS is widely under diagnosed, but as awareness of
7 it increases, the number of people identified grows every year;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Most people diagnosed with SMS have been identified
10 since 1995 as a result of improved laboratory techniques that
11 allow the accurate detection of this chromosomal deletion; and

12 WHEREAS, Early intervention and appropriate speech, physical
13 and occupational therapies enable people with SMS to adapt and
14 thrive; and

15 WHEREAS, Ongoing research offers the hope of new discoveries
16 that will enable people affected by this rare condition to live
17 more independent lives; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
19 month of October 2014 as "Smith-Magenis Syndrome Awareness
20 Month" in Pennsylvania and call upon all residents of this
21 Commonwealth to observe this month by participating in
22 activities to raise awareness of Smith-Magenis Syndrome.