

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2016 as "Down Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in  
4 approximately 1 in every 800 births; and

5 WHEREAS, The most common form of Down syndrome, trisomy 21,  
6 is due to an error in cell division, just prior to or during  
7 conception, with the 21st chromosome dividing in three instead  
8 of two, resulting in a person's being born with 47 instead of 46  
9 chromosomes in each cell; and

10 WHEREAS, There are more than 400,000 people of various  
11 ethnic, racial, religious and socioeconomic groups with Down  
12 syndrome living in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, While people with Down syndrome are at a higher risk  
14 for various conditions, such as congenital heart defects,  
15 respiratory problems and thyroid issues, advances in treatments  
16 enable them to lead healthy lives; and

17 WHEREAS, Thanks to these medical treatments and continuing

1 research, life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has  
2 increased from 25 years of age in 1983 to 60 years of age today;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and  
5 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable  
6 people with Down syndrome to adapt and thrive; and

7 WHEREAS, With such programs and the support of their families  
8 and communities, people with Down syndrome attend school,  
9 participate in postsecondary opportunities, with many going on  
10 to college, obtain full-time employment, enter into marriage and  
11 fully participate in their communities; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
13 month of October 2016 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" in  
14 Pennsylvania, recognizing the positive contributions that people  
15 with Down syndrome and their families make to our communities in  
16 the nation and in this Commonwealth.