

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2024 as "Italian-American Heritage
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Italians, including Christopher Columbus and Amerigo
4 Vespucci, were among the first explorers to discover the
5 American continents and map their geography; and

6 WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have defended the liberty and
7 integrity of the United States since the Revolutionary War; and

8 WHEREAS, The phrase in the Declaration of Independence, "all
9 men are created equal," was paraphrased from the writings of
10 Italian immigrant and American patriot Filippo Mazzei; and

11 WHEREAS, Two of the original signers of the Declaration of
12 Independence, William Paca and Caesar Rodney, were believed to
13 have been of Italian descent; and

14 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the
15 United States between 1820 and 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, Today there are approximately 18 million Americans
17 of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fourth-

1 largest ethnic group in this country; and

2 WHEREAS, The Italian-American community has strong roots in
3 Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia remains the second-largest
5 Italian-American community in this country; and

6 WHEREAS, The recent 2020 census, along with the 2021 American
7 Community Survey, reported that approximately 1.7 million
8 Pennsylvanians have Italian ancestry; and

9 WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have made and continue to make
10 important contributions to this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, On June 2 of each year, Italian-Americans, Italians
12 and individuals of Italian descent around the world celebrate
13 Festa della Repubblica, or Republic Day, Italy's National Day
14 that commemorates the 1946 referendum ending the monarchy in
15 Italy and establishing a republic; and

16 WHEREAS, The month of June also marks the anniversaries of
17 the founding of two notable Italian-American organizations, the
18 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America on June 22 and the
19 Italian American Heritage Foundation on June 29; and

20 WHEREAS, These observances have previously led the Congress
21 of the United States and state and local governments to
22 commemorate Italian-American heritage by declaring "National
23 Italian-American Heritage Week," "National Italian-American
24 Day," "Italian Heritage Day," "Italian-American Day" and other
25 days in June; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 month of June 2024 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 significant contributions that Italian-Americans have made to

1 this Commonwealth and the United States.