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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 276 Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BOSCOLA,  
BRUBAKER, COSTA, DINNIMAN, EARLL, ERICKSON, HUGHES, KASUNIC,  
KITCHEN, LEACH, LOGAN, MELLOW, O'PAKE, ORIE, PILEGGI, PIPPY,  
RAFFERTY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, WASHINGTON AND WAUGH,  
MARCH 22, 2010

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 22, 2010

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 21, 2010, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down Syndrome International has officially earmarked  
4 March 21 as "World Down Syndrome Day," selecting the date to  
5 signify the uniqueness of Down syndrome in the triplication of  
6 the 21st chromosome; and

7 WHEREAS, The annual observance of "World Down Syndrome Day"  
8 aims to promote awareness and understanding of Down syndrome and  
9 related issues and to mobilize support and recognition of the  
10 dignity, rights and well-being of persons with Down syndrome;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Langdon Down originally identified Down syndrome  
13 as he noticed similar characteristics among many patients, and  
14 the cause was identified by Professor Jerome Lejeune as an extra  
15 21st chromosome, also known as trisomy 21; and

16 WHEREAS Originally proposed by Dr. Balbir Singh of Down

1 Syndrome International, the first events were organized on March  
2 21, 2006, in Singapore, which was selected as the location for  
3 the inaugural "World Down Syndrome Day"; and

4 WHEREAS, Organizations throughout the nation use "World Down  
5 Syndrome Day" as a way to encourage their communities to focus  
6 on the possibilities and capabilities of individuals with Down  
7 syndrome and other special needs; and

8 WHEREAS, The day is celebrated through Down syndrome  
9 awareness and education efforts, Down syndrome advocacy and Down  
10 syndrome fundraising to assist local organizations in providing  
11 outreach efforts and resources to individuals and families with  
12 Down syndrome; and

13 WHEREAS, Although people with Down syndrome may be at risk  
14 for various medical challenges, appropriate medical  
15 interventions will help them live happy, healthy and productive  
16 lives; and

17 WHEREAS, Most people with Down syndrome have mild to moderate  
18 cognitive impairment, making the importance of early  
19 intervention services even more of a priority; and

20 WHEREAS, Many adults with Down syndrome are employed, live  
21 independently or in support settings and are active members of  
22 their communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Many individuals with Down syndrome are now  
24 successful and famous in their own right, including Karen  
25 Gaffney, author, athlete and activist; Bernadette Resha, artist;  
26 Sujeet Desai, musician and activist; Jason Kingsley, author and  
27 actor; Mitchell Levitz, author and disabilities specialist; and  
28 Chris Burke, actor, singer, speaker and ambassador for the  
29 National Down Syndrome Society; and

30 WHEREAS, Many of us know people with Down syndrome and they

1 can be our children, our brothers or sisters, our classmates,  
2 our teammates and our friends; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize March 21, 2010, as "World  
4 Down Syndrome Day" in Pennsylvania and commend individuals with  
5 Down syndrome, their friends and families for celebrating the  
6 uniqueness of Down syndrome through their daily actions and  
7 interactions.