
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 609 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KULIK, TURZAI, RAPP, MUSTIO, READSHAW, KAVULICH,
BARRAR, NEILSON, MARSHALL, BERNSTINE, TOPPER, ROTHMAN,
THOMAS, BAKER, B. MILLER, KLUNK, PYLE, ROE, RYAN, HARPER,
SACCONE, SCHEMEL, FEE, EVERETT, DOWLING, MAHER, BARBIN,
MARSICO, SAYLOR, KNOWLES, PICKETT, WARD, OBERLANDER, CORBIN,
TOOHIL, M. QUINN, KORTZ, PHILLIPS-HILL, HELM, CUTLER,
WHEELAND AND ORTITAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating people with Down syndrome and denouncing the
2 practice of selectively aborting fetuses with Down syndrome.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition associated
4 with intellectual disability, a characteristic facial appearance
5 and weak muscle tone in infancy; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2010, it was estimated that approximately 206,366
7 individuals in the United States had Down syndrome; and

8 WHEREAS, The majority of children diagnosed with Down
9 syndrome can learn to read and write and many succeed in typical
10 academic classrooms in public schools across the country; and

11 WHEREAS, Babies born with Down syndrome grow to lead
12 productive lives, develop interpersonal relationships with
13 family and friends, become active members of their communities
14 and make meaningful contributions to society; and

15 WHEREAS, An increasing number of adults with Down syndrome

1 are able to live independently with limited assistance and
2 obtain and maintain employment in a variety of positions; and

3 WHEREAS, People diagnosed with Down syndrome have become
4 politicians, painters and musicians and have gone on to pursue
5 and earn degrees in higher education; and

6 WHEREAS, Medical procedures such as chorionic villus sampling
7 and amniocentesis have made it possible to diagnose a fetus with
8 Down syndrome while still in the womb; and

9 WHEREAS, When given a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome for
10 their child, some women may feel pressure from their doctor or
11 others to abort; and

12 WHEREAS, Prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome should not be
13 used as a reason to end a life nor should selective abortion be
14 perceived as a health care solution; and

15 WHEREAS, Prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome should be a step
16 to prepare families for the challenges and successes that will
17 be had by the child rather than a means of selectively aborting
18 the child; and

19 WHEREAS, Rather than using resources to take a life,
20 resources should be used to improve the lives of the children
21 with Down syndrome, developing treatments for children with Down
22 syndrome, developing effective behavioral and educational
23 programs for children with Down syndrome and supporting families
24 of children with Down syndrome; and

25 WHEREAS, Practices contrary to supporting developing fetuses
26 and children born with Down syndrome perpetuate the stigma
27 attached to these children rather than recognizing their value
28 to society; and

29 WHEREAS, Individuals with Down syndrome should be respected
30 and celebrated for the joy and contributions they bring to their

1 communities and society; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate people
3 with Down syndrome and denounce the practice of selectively
4 aborting fetuses with Down syndrome.