

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 242 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, BROOKS, BROWNE, FONTANA, GREENLEAF,
SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES AND RESCHENTHALER,
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2017 as "Prematurity Awareness
2 Month" and November 17, 2017, as "Prematurity Awareness Day"
3 in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in
5 improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by
6 preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In 2003, the March of Dimes launched the Prematurity
9 Campaign to address the crisis of premature birth and help
10 families have full-term, healthy babies; and

11 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes has set a national goal of
12 reducing preterm birth to 5.5% in every state by 2030, which
13 will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands
14 of infants; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 13,224 babies were born premature in
16 this Commonwealth in 2015, representing 9.3% of all births
17 Statewide; and

18 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth receives a grade of C and a

1 disparity index ranking of 1.33 on the March of Dimes 2017
2 Premature Birth Report Card; and

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes in Pennsylvania has worked
4 extensively to promote access to health services and health
5 coverage as well as raise awareness of tobacco-related issues,
6 birth spacing and policies that help to reduce premature birth
7 and promote health equity; and

8 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes of Pennsylvania looks forward to
9 partnering with the General Assembly in response to the
10 continued crisis of premature birth; and

11 WHEREAS, The month of November is recognized as "World
12 Prematurity Awareness Month" to bring about recognition of this
13 global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as
14 "Prematurity Awareness Day" across the United States; therefore
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
17 2017 as "Prematurity Awareness Month" and November 17, 2017, as
18 "Prematurity Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.