
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 121 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, MIHALEK, KORTZ, READSHAW, BARRAR,
TURZAI, LONGIETTI, BERNSTINE, HICKERNELL, HARKINS, KAUFFMAN,
FEE, SCHLOSSBERG, IRVIN, BIZZARRO, TOEPEL, MARKOSEK, PICKETT,
RYAN, B. MILLER, MURT, SONNEY, PASHINSKI, REESE, HILL-EVANS,
SAMUELSON, NEILSON, STAATS, HELM, OBERLANDER, MILLARD, BURNS,
DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, HENNESSEY, SAYLOR, DEASY, DeLUCA,
ZIMMERMAN, MULLINS, CIRESI, SCHWEYER, KINSEY, FARRY, MATZIE
AND HEFFLEY, MARCH 6, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 6, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 21, 2019, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in
4 approximately one in every 700 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 into three copies
8 instead of two, resulting in an individual being born with 47
9 instead of 46 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, including congenital heart defects,

1 respiratory problems and thyroid issues, advances in treatments
2 enable them to lead healthy lives; and

3 WHEREAS, Thanks to these medical treatments and continuing
4 research, life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has
5 increased from 25 years of age in 1983 to 60 years of age today;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and
8 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable
9 people with Down syndrome to confront and conquer cognitive
10 delays; and

11 WHEREAS, With these programs and the support of their
12 families and communities, people with Down syndrome are able to
13 attend school, with many going to college, obtaining full-time
14 employment and entering into marriage; and

15 WHEREAS, Noting the significance of the triplication of the
16 21st chromosome, Down Syndrome International has chosen the 21st
17 day of the third month of the year, or March 21, 2019, as "World
18 Down Syndrome Day" in order to raise public awareness of Down
19 syndrome and to recognize the dignity, rights and well-being of
20 people with this condition; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
22 21, 2019, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
25 positive contributions that people with Down syndrome and their
26 families make to our communities in Pennsylvania, the United
27 States and across the globe.