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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 475 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, DiGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY,  
SCHWEYER, BURNS, KAUFFMAN, McCLINTON, BIZZARRO, LONGIETTI,  
FREEMAN, MOUL, STURLA, PYLE, HILL-EVANS, BOBACK, MILLARD,  
READSHAW, MACKENZIE, CALTAGIRONE, MALAGARI, KORTZ, HEFFLEY  
AND McNEILL, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Observing the month of September 2019 as "Newborn Screening  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every  
4 newborn prior to hospital discharge for certain harmful or  
5 potentially fatal conditions that are not otherwise apparent at  
6 birth; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns  
8 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant  
9 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

10 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that  
11 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and  
12 evaluation; and

13 WHEREAS, Every year nearly 4 million newborns in the United  
14 States and more than 135,000 newborns in Pennsylvania undergo  
15 newborn screening; and

16 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers

1 for Disease Control and Prevention's list of Ten Great Public  
2 Health Achievements in the 20th Century; and

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States  
4 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of  
6 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child  
7 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other  
8 institutions to administer tests or cause tests to be  
9 administered for PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants  
10 in certain cases; and

11 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the Newborn Child  
12 Testing Act has been amended three times, most recently with Act  
13 148 of 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for  
14 testing from 6 to 12; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania  
16 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical  
17 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services  
18 for all 38 currently listed newborn conditions on Pennsylvania's  
19 two screening panels; and

20 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-Up  
21 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of  
22 Health; and

23 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in  
24 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with  
25 several partner organizations, to shine a national spotlight on  
26 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe the month  
28 of September 2019 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in  
29 Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the

- 1 importance of awareness of newborn screening and encourage
- 2 parents and future parents to educate themselves and take the
- 3 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.