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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 556 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, MOUL, HENNESSEY, SONNEY, BURNS, BIZZARRO, TURZAI, LONGIETTI, RYAN, MACKENZIE, KORTZ, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KAUFFMAN, DIAMOND, PICKETT, THOMAS, MERSKI, FREEMAN, MILLARD, HICKERNELL, SAMUELSON, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, KNOWLES, BARRAR, STAATS, BROWN, OBERLANDER, SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, BERNSTINE, JONES, MARSHALL, CIRESI, ZIMMERMAN, MURT AND SCHWEYER, OCTOBER 11, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 11, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2019 as "Down Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in 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 in three instead  
8 of two, resulting in an individual being born with 47 instead of  
9 46 chromosomes in each cell; and

10 WHEREAS, There are more than 400,000 individuals of various  
11 ethnic, racial, religious and socioeconomic groups with Down  
12 syndrome living in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, While individuals with Down syndrome are at a higher  
14 risk for various conditions such as congenital heart defects,  
15 respiratory problems and thyroid issues, advances in medical

1 treatments enable them to lead healthy lives; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and  
7 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable  
8 individuals with Down syndrome to adapt and thrive; and

9 WHEREAS, With such programs and the support of their families  
10 and communities, individuals with Down syndrome attend school  
11 and participate in postsecondary opportunities, with many  
12 individuals with Down syndrome going on to college, obtaining  
13 full-time employment, entering into marriage and fully  
14 participating in their communities; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
16 month of October 2019 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" in  
17 Pennsylvania; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
19 positive contributions that individuals with Down syndrome and  
20 their families make to our communities in this nation and  
21 throughout this Commonwealth.