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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 789 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY TOOHL, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,  
ECKER, BERNSTINE, ROZZI, KORTZ, SONNEY, HOWARD, LONGIETTI,  
FREEMAN, RYAN, HENNESSEY, JAMES, MEHAFFIE, BURGOS, MURT,  
BROOKS, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, QUINN, THOMAS, BURNS, PICKETT,  
BARRAR, READSHAW, BROWN, SAPPEY, POLINCHOCK, DELLOSO,  
SCHMITT, STAATS, MACKENZIE AND KIM, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2020 as "Intellectual Disability  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of  
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a  
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is characterized by  
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is not a mental illness;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational  
11 interventions that can cure an intellectual disability, although  
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and  
13 adaptive functioning; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with an intellectual disability deserve  
15 and require lifelong support and services; and

16 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States, in its

1 *Olmstead* decision, affirmed the right of individuals with  
2 disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and other  
3 developmental disabilities, to receive community-based services  
4 as an alternative to institutional care; and

5 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2015-2016, more than 89,000 children,  
6 including significant numbers of children who have an  
7 intellectual disability, received early intervention services,  
8 and an additional 13,745 individuals with an intellectual  
9 disability continue to wait for services; and

10 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2016-2017, 57,495 Pennsylvanians with  
11 an intellectual disability received services and supports within  
12 the community; and

13 WHEREAS, These services and supports ensure that all  
14 residents of this Commonwealth who have an intellectual  
15 disability have the opportunity to participate in the range of  
16 life experiences we all enjoy in our homes and communities, such  
17 as inclusion in schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of  
18 worship; and

19 WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the  
20 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the  
21 services and supports needed to meet the specific needs and  
22 abilities of people with an intellectual disability; therefore  
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
25 month of March 2020 as "Intellectual Disability Awareness Month"  
26 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the  
28 important role of public awareness and education in improving  
29 the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability; and be  
30 it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express  
2 appreciation to all Pennsylvanians who conduct special outreach,  
3 education and services during the month of March and urge the  
4 residents of this Commonwealth to give year-round support to  
5 efforts which enable individuals with an intellectual disability  
6 to live full and productive lives in our communities.