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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 305 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, MUTH, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, SCAVELLO,  
SANTARSIERO, BROWNE, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, HUGHES,  
MARTIN, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, SABATINA, BAKER, AUMENT  
AND TARTAGLIONE, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 7 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital  
2 Heart Defect Awareness Week" and further designating February  
3 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" is an  
5 annual recognition effort to help educate the public about  
6 congenital heart defects; and

7 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the most common  
8 congenital disability, annually affecting 1 in every 104  
9 newborns in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Designating "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week"  
11 in this Commonwealth promotes greater public awareness about  
12 congenital heart defects and encourages proper screenings to  
13 detect such defects; and

14 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are a leading cause of  
15 birth-defect-related deaths worldwide; and

16 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects cause twice as many  
17 fatalities as childhood cancer; and

1       WHEREAS, Newborn screening for congenital heart defects  
2 involves a simple, noninvasive test called pulse oximetry; and

3       WHEREAS, Pulse oximetry screening is the most effective way  
4 to detect critical congenital heart defects; and

5       WHEREAS, Many newborns with a critical heart defect need  
6 surgery and related procedures during their first year of life  
7 to repair and sustain their heart; and

8       WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for awareness and  
9 funding to screen for and correct congenital heart defects; and

10       WHEREAS, Emersyn Grace was born on March 29, 2018, with a  
11 heart defect that was detected before her birth and she battled  
12 through multiple surgeries in her short life; and

13       WHEREAS, Though Emersyn tragically passed away in November  
14 2018 due to complications from her heart condition,  
15 Pennsylvanians endure with humility to honor her memory by  
16 spreading awareness for congenital heart defects and the tests  
17 that can detect them; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 7  
19 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness  
20 Week," and further designate February 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's  
21 Day" in Pennsylvania.