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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 361 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
J. WARD, BLAKE, FONTANA, KILLION, SANTARSIERO, MARTIN,  
MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE, STEFANO, PITTMAN, ARNOLD AND DINNIMAN,  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2020 as "Fetal Alcohol  
2 Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an  
4 umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in  
5 an individual who is exposed to alcohol before birth; and

6 WHEREAS, Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable  
7 cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental  
8 disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, The exact number of people who have FASDs is  
10 unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 school children  
11 in the United States may have an FASD, a rate comparable to  
12 Autism, and about 40,000 babies are born with effects of  
13 prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

14 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost for one individual with Fetal  
15 Alcohol Syndrome is estimated to be \$2 million, with an annual  
16 combined cost to the United States alone of more than \$4  
17 billion; and

1       WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
2 Prevention, 1 in 9 pregnant women report alcohol use and about 1  
3 in 26 report binge drinking during pregnancy; and

4       WHEREAS, Many women may not know that they are pregnant for  
5 the first four to six weeks contributing to late entry into  
6 prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy  
7 management particularly during the crucial early weeks; and

8       WHEREAS, The good health and well-being of the people of  
9 Luzerne and Wyoming Counties are enhanced by the support of a  
10 national effort to educate and prevent FASDs; and

11       WHEREAS, The Counties of Luzerne and Wyoming join with  
12 Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services and Luzerne-Wyoming  
13 Counties Drug and Alcohol Program as well as many dedicated  
14 volunteers, health care professionals, educators and parent  
15 groups by participating in this promotion; therefore be it

16       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of September  
17 2020 as "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month" in  
18 Pennsylvania; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the Senate pledge to continue to partner with  
20 organizations, health care professionals, educators and the  
21 public to raise awareness that pregnancy and alcohol do not mix.