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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 191 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BULLOCK, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, DELLOSO,  
SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD, NEILSON, GILLEN AND GREEN,  
AUGUST 29, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, AUGUST 29, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2023 as "Special Needs Law  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is important for parents and siblings of  
4 individuals with special needs to plan for the care and  
5 financial support of their child or sibling after their death;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Public benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental  
8 Security Income do not cover all of the necessary expenses for  
9 individuals with special needs; and

10 WHEREAS, Special needs planning can include establishing  
11 special needs trusts, evaluating care options, advocating for  
12 programs that benefit individuals with special needs and  
13 managing public benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental  
14 Security Income; and

15 WHEREAS, Special needs law attorneys throughout the United  
16 States perform a much-needed service for their communities by  
17 informing individuals with special needs, their families and

1 caregivers about their legal options and protections; and

2 WHEREAS, The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is a national  
3 organization of attorneys who have devoted themselves to aiding  
4 individuals with special needs and their loved ones in  
5 navigating disability and public benefits law; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities and their families  
7 depend on the SNA to find nearby attorneys who are experts in  
8 disability law; and

9 WHEREAS, Protected Tomorrows was founded by Mary Anne Ehlert  
10 to help those with special needs attain greater independence and  
11 security; and

12 WHEREAS, Protected Tomorrows guides families through the  
13 process of planning for the future of a family member with  
14 special needs in order to alleviate anxieties and secure a  
15 brighter future for individuals with special needs; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.,  
17 (NAELA) was founded in 1987 as a professional association of  
18 attorneys who are devoted to utilizing their knowledge to aid  
19 elderly individuals and individuals with special needs in  
20 navigating important legal issues; and

21 WHEREAS, NAELA established October as "National Special Needs  
22 Law Month" in order to promote the many resources available to  
23 individuals with special needs and their families as they plan  
24 for their financial future; and

25 WHEREAS, Many NAELA members celebrate "National Special Needs  
26 Law Month" by holding events in their communities to inform the  
27 public about the options available for individuals with special  
28 needs and their loved ones to safeguard their financial future;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, By recognizing "Special Needs Law Month," this

1 Commonwealth can raise awareness of the resources available for  
2 individuals with special needs and their loved ones to plan for  
3 their financial future; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
5 month of October 2023 as "Special Needs Law Month" in  
6 Pennsylvania; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That this Commonwealth express its full support for  
8 all individuals with special needs as well as their loved ones.