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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 262 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, HENNESSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, HEFFLEY, KORTZ,  
LONGIETTI, NEILSON, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, FREEMAN,  
MURT, READSHAW, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE,  
SCHWEYER, BURNS AND KULIK, APRIL 25, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 25, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 19, 2019, as "22q at the Zoo Worldwide Awareness  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, also known as DiGeorge  
4 syndrome, velo-cardio-facial syndrome and conotruncal anomaly  
5 face syndrome, among other names, is a congenital defect in  
6 which a small part of chromosome 22 is missing from the time of  
7 conception; and

8 WHEREAS, 22q11.2 deletion syndrome is the second most  
9 commonly known chromosomal abnormality, affecting an estimated 1  
10 in 2,000 to 4,000 live births, yet it is often undiagnosed,  
11 especially in adults; and

12 WHEREAS, Lack of awareness among the public and health care  
13 professionals indicates there may actually be many more  
14 individuals affected by this syndrome; and

15 WHEREAS, For a parent who has 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, with  
16 each pregnancy there is a 50% chance of passing a copy of

1 chromosome 22 with a small part of that chromosome missing; and

2 WHEREAS, The 22q11.2 deletion is most often not inherited  
3 from either parent and does not usually run in families; and

4 WHEREAS, If the condition is suspected, a blood test to  
5 detect the deletion can be performed; and

6 WHEREAS, 22q11.2 deletion syndrome can affect almost every  
7 system in the body and cause a wide range of health problems;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Given the limited scientific studies of this  
10 syndrome, it is difficult to know how severely a child will be  
11 affected; and

12 WHEREAS, Symptoms of the disorder do not consistently appear  
13 to be related to the amount of genetic material lost in the  
14 chromosomal deletion, and therefore, there may be a great deal  
15 of variation in symptoms among affected individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of the syndrome include heart  
17 abnormalities, distinctive facial features, recurrent infections  
18 due to a weakened immune system, gastrointestinal issues and  
19 kidney problems; and

20 WHEREAS, Many children will also experience developmental  
21 delays, delayed growth and speech and learning disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, While not all symptoms associated with 22q11.2  
23 deletion syndrome are life-threatening, many children and adults  
24 affected by the deletion have numerous medical problems during  
25 their lifetime that may require specialized care; and

26 WHEREAS, Although there is no cure for 22q11.2 deletion  
27 syndrome, there are many therapies and medical interventions  
28 available to treat the symptoms, and, the earlier that the  
29 symptoms are detected, the more that doctors can do to help; and

30 WHEREAS, Clinical variability, lack of knowledge and the

1 unfamiliarity of clinicians with this syndrome all contribute to  
2 delayed or missed detection, often resulting in avoidable  
3 medical complications; and

4 WHEREAS, Promoting awareness of this complex syndrome among  
5 the public and the medical community is an important step in  
6 increasing the likelihood that a correct diagnosis can be made  
7 early; and

8 WHEREAS, "22q at the Zoo Worldwide Awareness Day" is an  
9 annual event organized and developed by The International  
10 22q11.2 Foundation aimed at raising the public profile of this  
11 poorly recognized syndrome; and

12 WHEREAS, This event first began in May 2011 in Philadelphia  
13 and has since evolved into a worldwide phenomenon celebrated  
14 throughout many countries; and

15 WHEREAS, Every year, volunteers, families and friends gather  
16 at their local zoo, park or backyard to hand out fact sheets,  
17 play games and show solidarity to those affected by 22q11.2  
18 deletion syndrome; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 19,  
20 2019, as "22q at the Zoo Worldwide Awareness Day" in  
21 Pennsylvania; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the  
23 individuals who participate in "22q at the Zoo Worldwide  
24 Awareness Day" events and urge its observance throughout this  
25 Commonwealth for the benefit of all individuals living with  
26 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and their families.