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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 404 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MOUL, OTTEN, BURNS, SCHMITT, GREINER, ZABEL,  
KLUNK, ECKER, KNOWLES, McNEILL, BIZZARRO, KORTZ, SONNEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, WHEELAND, MILLARD, MIZGORSKI, WENTLING, GLEIM,  
HILL-EVANS, MENTZER, RIGBY, JONES, TOEPEL, BROWN, MALAGARI,  
READSHAW, LONGIETTI, NEILSON, ORTITAY, GILLEN, RYAN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, COOK AND RAPP, JUNE 14, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 14, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2019 as "Hirschsprung's  
2 Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to coincide with a  
3 global initiative in Australia.

4 WHEREAS, Hirschsprung's disease (HD) is a rare birth defect  
5 that causes an absence of certain intestinal nerve cells, which  
6 inhibits or prevents the elimination of waste from a newborn  
7 baby; and

8 WHEREAS, HD exists 1 in 5,000 births and it is four times  
9 more common in boys than girls; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of HD are common in other diseases and  
11 consequently may be difficult to recognize; and

12 WHEREAS, The symptoms of HD include all of the following:

- 13 (1) Delayed passage of newborn meconium.  
14 (2) Ongoing chronic constipation.  
15 (3) Excessive vomiting.  
16 (4) Unexplained fever.

1 (5) Hard mass and bloated belly;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, Nontreatment of HD can lead to malnourishment, a  
4 perforated bowel or even an unexpected death from sepsis; and

5 WHEREAS, HD develops during the 4th to 12th weeks of  
6 gestation when nerve cells are migrating from the brain, down  
7 the spinal column, to form the intestines; and

8 WHEREAS, There are degrees of severity of HD based on where  
9 the migration of nerve cells stops during fetal development; and

10 WHEREAS, A biopsy of internal bowels is necessary for  
11 diagnosis of HD; and

12 WHEREAS, When a surgical correction is necessary to treat HD,  
13 a pull-through surgery removes the nonfunctioning portion of the  
14 intestine; and

15 WHEREAS, In the most severe forms of HD, an intestinal  
16 transplant is necessary to treat HD; and

17 WHEREAS, If an individual is suspected of having HD, the  
18 individual should seek immediate medical attention; therefore be  
19 it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
21 month of September 2019 as "Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness  
22 Month" in Pennsylvania to coincide with a global initiative in  
23 Australia; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives seek to make  
25 caregivers of newborn babies in this Commonwealth aware of HD,  
26 allowing them to seek an early diagnosis and proper treatment of  
27 the disease if necessary.