
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 895 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, REED, COHEN, CUTLER, PICKETT,
CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, READSHAW, KIRKLAND, KINSEY, LUCAS,
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WATERS, LONGIETTI, GOODMAN, HEFFLEY, EVERETT, VEREB, MURT,
MARSICO, GINGRICH, BENNINGHOFF, FARINA AND HENNESSEY,
JUNE 11, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 11, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2014 as "MECP2 Duplication
2 Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is usually caused by
4 duplication of DNA on the Xq28 region of the chromosomes; and

5 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is characterized by
6 hypotonia, developmental delay, intellectual disability, limited
7 or absent speech, constipation, reflux, ataxia, progressive
8 spasticity, stereotyped movements of hands, teeth grinding,
9 recurrent respiratory infections, epilepsy and developmental
10 regression occurring in some boys; and

11 WHEREAS, While duplication of MECP2 causes many problems,
12 some boys have large duplications that include many other genes,
13 and the full extent of phenotypes due to duplication of other
14 genes is not completely understood at this time; and

15 WHEREAS, Recent studies have shown a link between MECP2

1 duplication syndrome and autism, and most boys with this
2 syndrome do have distinct features of autism; and

3 WHEREAS, Patients with MECP2 duplication syndrome have
4 multiple neurological deficits, but, thankfully, their brains
5 are not static and are highly responsive to proper stimulation,
6 such as schooling, exercise, music, age-appropriate social
7 interactions and related activities; and

8 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome was not formally
9 recognized until 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is most commonly
11 inherited in an X-linked manner, meaning that affected males
12 have, most commonly, inherited the MECP2 duplication from the
13 carrier mother, however, spontaneous duplications have been
14 reported. To date, no cases of a father transmitting the
15 duplication have been reported; and

16 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome research is currently
17 taking place with efforts to reduce symptoms in mice, in hope
18 that there soon will be effective treatments for humans with
19 this disorder; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 month of July 2014 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness
22 Month" in Pennsylvania.