
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 977 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, BENNINGHOFF, BERNSTINE, CALTAGIRONE,
CUTLER, DAY, DUSH, EVERETT, FEE, GILLEN, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY,
HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, MENTZER, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON,
B. O'NEILL, QUIGLEY, M. QUINN, REED, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SAYLOR,
SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, TOOHL, ZIMMERMAN AND BRADFORD,
JUNE 13, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 13, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2018 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 causes many problems and
6 is typically characterized by hypotonia, developmental delay,
7 intellectual disability, limited or absent speech, constipation,
8 reflux, ataxia, progressive spasticity, stereotyped movements of
9 hands, teeth grinding, recurrent respiratory infections,
10 epilepsy and developmental regression in boys; and

11 WHEREAS, Some boys have large duplications that include many
12 other genes, and the full extent of phenotypes due to
13 duplication of other genes is not completely understood at this
14 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 are highly
4 responsive to proper stimulation such as schooling, exercise,
5 music, age-appropriate social interactions and related
6 activities; and

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

9 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome is most commonly
10 inherited in an X-linked manner, with affected males most
11 commonly inheriting the MECP2 duplication from the carrier
12 mother, but spontaneous duplications have been reported; and

13 WHEREAS, To date, no cases of a father transmitting the
14 duplication have been reported; and

15 WHEREAS, MECP2 duplication syndrome research, which has shown
16 that symptoms of the disorder can be reversed in mice using a
17 small antisense oligonucleotide, gives hope for the future
18 development of effective treatments for humans with this
19 disorder; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 month of July 2018 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness
22 Month" in Pennsylvania.