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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 363 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, BROWNE, MENSCH, GORDNER, BROOKS, FONTANA,  
BARTOLOTTA, CAPPELLETTI, SCAVELLO, LANGERHOLC AND COMITTA,  
OCTOBER 14, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 14, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2022 as "Down Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in  
4 approximately 1 in every 707 births; and

5 WHEREAS, The most common form of Down syndrome, trisomy 21,  
6 is due to an error in cell division just prior to or during  
7 conception, with the 21st chromosome dividing in three instead  
8 of two, resulting in 47 chromosomes per cell instead of 46; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the most recent estimates of the  
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2008 there  
11 were more than 250,000 individuals of various ethnic, racial,  
12 religious and socioeconomic groups with Down syndrome living in  
13 the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Thanks to advances in medical treatments and  
15 continuing research, life expectancy for individuals with Down  
16 syndrome has increased from 10 years in 1960 to nearly 60 years  
17 today according to the most recent CDC estimates; and

1       WHEREAS, When accounting for the increased life expectancies  
2 and steady birth rates, while not confirmed, some reports  
3 suggest that the total population of individuals living with  
4 Down syndrome stands closer to the upper 300,000 figure; and

5       WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and  
6 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable  
7 individuals with Down syndrome to adapt and thrive; and

8       WHEREAS, With interventions, programs and the support of  
9 family and the community, individuals with Down syndrome attend  
10 school and participate in postsecondary opportunities, with many  
11 going on to college, obtaining full-time employment, entering  
12 into marriage and fully participating in their communities;  
13 therefore be it

14       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2022  
15 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
16 further

17       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the positive  
18 contributions of individuals with Down syndrome and their  
19 families.