

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 370 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, BOSCOLA, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, KEARNEY, BROWNE, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, MARTIN, COMITTA, KANE, DILLON, COLLETT, COSTA, L. WILLIAMS, STREET, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, MUTH, SANTARSIERO, TARTAGLIONE, STEFANO AND HUTCHINSON, OCTOBER 21, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 21, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2022 as "Pregnancy and Infant  
2 Loss Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every year, approximately 1 million pregnancies in  
4 the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of  
5 a newborn; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 25% of all pregnancies end in  
7 miscarriage, which is the loss of a baby before the 20th week of  
8 pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, About 1% of all pregnancies, approximately 24,000  
10 pregnancies, end in stillbirth, which is the loss of a baby at  
11 or after the 20th week of pregnancy; and

12 WHEREAS, The primary causes of infant mortality, which is  
13 defined as the death of an infant within the first year of life,  
14 are birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, maternal  
15 pregnancy complications, sudden infant death syndrome and  
16 injuries; and

1       WHEREAS, Black parents are significantly more likely to  
2 experience pregnancy loss or infant death than white or Hispanic  
3 parents, and these disparities are likely the result of lower  
4 quality of maternal health care, socioeconomic factors and  
5 structural racism; and

6       WHEREAS, The loss of a pregnancy or death of an infant are  
7 deeply painful experiences which can affect families long after  
8 the loss, and many parents endure these losses silently and  
9 without the support of their workplace or larger community; and

10       WHEREAS, People who have experienced pregnancy loss or infant  
11 loss should have ample opportunity to grieve, including the  
12 ability to take bereavement leave from work; and

13       WHEREAS, A public that is informed and educated about  
14 pregnancy and infant loss can better learn how to respond with  
15 compassion to affected individuals and families; and

16       WHEREAS, Professionals who may engage with individuals  
17 following pregnancy loss or infant loss, such as physicians,  
18 clergy, emergency medical technicians, funeral directors, police  
19 officers, public health nurses, educators and employers can  
20 better serve families if they are better educated about these  
21 experiences; and

22       WHEREAS, In 1988, the month of October was officially  
23 proclaimed as "National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness  
24 Month" to recognize the grief of families, remember all the  
25 pregnancies and infants lost and increase awareness about these  
26 issues; and

27       WHEREAS, Many organizations continue to recognize pregnancy  
28 and infant loss during the month of October; therefore be it

29       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2022  
30 as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.