
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 61 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, BROWNE, HUGHES, SCAVELLO, KANE, PHILLIPS-
HILL, J. WARD, FONTANA, KEARNEY, MARTIN, STREET, YUDICHAK,
BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA AND COSTA, APRIL 9, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 9, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of February 7 through February 14, 2021, as
2 "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" and further
3 designating February 14, 2021, as "Emersyn's Day" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" is an
6 annual recognition effort to help educate the public about
7 congenital heart defects; and

8 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the most common
9 congenital disability, annually affecting 1 in every 104
10 newborns in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Designating "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week"
12 in this Commonwealth promotes greater public awareness about
13 congenital heart defects and encourages proper screenings to
14 detect such defects; and

15 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are a leading cause of
16 birth-defect-related deaths worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects cause twice as many
18 fatalities as childhood cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, Newborn screening for congenital heart defects
2 involves a simple, noninvasive test called pulse oximetry; and

3 WHEREAS, Pulse oximetry screening is the most effective way
4 to detect critical congenital heart defects; and

5 WHEREAS, Many newborns with a critical heart defect need
6 surgery and related procedures during their first year of life
7 to repair and sustain their heart; and

8 WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for awareness and
9 funding to screen for and correct congenital heart defects; and

10 WHEREAS, Emersyn Grace was born March 29, 2018, with a heart
11 defect that was detected before her birth and she battled
12 through multiple surgeries in her short life; and

13 WHEREAS, Though Emersyn tragically passed away in November
14 2018 due to complications from her heart condition,
15 Pennsylvanians endure with humility to honor her memory by
16 spreading awareness for congenital heart defects and the tests
17 that can detect them; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 7
19 through February 14, 2021, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness
20 Week," and further designate February 14, 2021, as "Emersyn's
21 Day" in Pennsylvania.