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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 381 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, BAKER, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,  
CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, EVERETT, FEE,  
GOODMAN, J. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, IRVIN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,  
MARSICO, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, READSHAW,  
REED, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, TOOHL, WARD, WARREN,  
WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 7, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 7, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2017 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 2017 as "MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Awareness  
22 Month" in Pennsylvania.