

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 353 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, ROBINSON, J. WARD, BROOKS, DUSH, HAYWOOD, CULVER, VOGEL, TARTAGLIONE, BROWN, COLEMAN, COSTA, DILLON, MILLER, PHILLIPS-HILL AND CAPPELLETTI, OCTOBER 18, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 18, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2024 as "Down Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in
4 approximately 1 in every 640 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, While most data on the matter are estimates updated
10 from infrequently reassessed studies, the total population of
11 individuals living with Down syndrome in the United States is
12 believed to be in the hundreds of thousands; and

13 WHEREAS, Thanks to advances in medical treatments and
14 continuing research, life expectancy for individuals with Down
15 syndrome has increased from 10 years of age in 1960 to nearly 60
16 years of age today according to the most recent United States
17 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 2024
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.