

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, approximately one in every seven hundred and seventy-two children are born with Down syndrome, representing an estimated 5,100 births per year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average life expectancy of an individual with Down syndrome in the United States has increased to over sixty years of age; and

WHEREAS, early intervention and continuing medical advances have enabled those with Down syndrome to have longer and more fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, families, schools, healthcare professionals, and governments, with the aid of local Down syndrome services create opportunities, raise awareness, and facilitate solutions for these valued members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most common genetic disorder and thirty-eight percent of the population knows someone with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome possess relevant skills and abilities and should have equal opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, and inclusion in their community through employment, education, social interaction, and personal relationships in order to reach their fullest potential.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in support of individuals with Down syndrome, as well as their families, advocates, researchers, and medical professionals. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to work together to promote respect and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-fourth day of September two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro