

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, approximately one in every seven hundred children are born with Down syndrome, representing an estimated 6,000 births per year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, medical advances have increased the life expectancy of an individual with Down syndrome to between 50 and 60 years; and

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

WHEREAS, individuals, families, schools, local communities, healthcare professionals, and government agencies work to increase awareness and engagement allowing these valued members of our society to live more independently and successfully throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most common genetic disorder with over 200,000 individuals residing in the United States, while thirty-eight percent of the population knows someone with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome possess relevant skills, abilities, and talents 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 2026 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 eighteenth day of September two thousand twenty-six, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fifty-first.

Governor Josh Shapiro

First Lady Lori Shapiro