## RECOGNIZNG JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 AS WORLD VITILIGO DAY WITHIN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, Vitiligo is an autoimmune condition causing loss of pigment from areas of the skin and resulting in irregular white spots or patches; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1% of the global population are affected by vitiligo, highlighting its universal prevalence and the need for enhanced awareness; and

WHEREAS, Vitiligo affects three to five million Americans and can affect people of any age, gender, race, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, While vitiligo is not contagious and usually not physically painful, the psychological and social effects are well-documented and especially devastating to children; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals with vitiligo experience stigmatization, discrimination, and bullying due to a lack of public understanding about the condition;

WHEREAS, Embracing acceptance and self-love can be essential components for some individuals living with vitiligo; and

WHEREAS, Having knowledge of and access to treatment options should be discussed between patients and their providers; and

WHEREAS, The clinical consensus identifies vitiligo as an autoimmune, not a cosmetic condition; and

WHEREAS, The precise causes of vitiligo remain largely unknown, requiring further research to better understand and treat this condition; and

WHEREAS, In 2022 the FDA approved the first-ever drug to treat vitiligo; and

WHEREAS, June 25th is recognized as World Vitiligo Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness and understanding about this condition; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Tuesday, June 25, 2024, as World Vitiligo Day in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages all Pennsylvanians to promote public awareness about vitiligo, dispel myths, and foster empathy and support for those affected by the condition; and be it further

RESOLVED that the House of Representatives acknowledges the importance of ongoing research into the causes and potential treatments for vitiligo, and calls on both state government and private sector to continue to prioritize and vitiligo research within Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED that the House of Representatives stands with the medical community in recognizing vitiligo as a serious autoimmune condition deserving of parity in recognition alongside other autoimmune conditions that impact Pennsylvanians.

## <u>Source</u>